

Hafa Adai!

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Torres to meet with Gov. Ige in Hawaii. **PAGE 3**

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FOR PREVAILING IN LAWSUIT OVER HANDGUN BAN

Radich couple requests over \$103K in attorney's fees, costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich and his wife, Li-Rong, are requesting payment for their two lawyers in the total amount of \$103,913.83 for attorney's fees and expenses for prevailing in their lawsuit that challenged the constitutionality of the CNMI gun's control law.

Attorneys David G. Sigale and Daniel T. Guidotti are asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award them attorney's fees in the amount of \$80,325 and \$15,347.50, respec-

See RADICH on Page 4

OAG: Ex-Ranger Murphy now allowed to register Glock pistol

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has notified the federal court that former U.S. Army Ranger Paul Michael Murphy, who sued over the alleged confiscation of his firearms and ammunition in 2002, is now allowed to register his Glock pistol pursuant to the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement or SAFE.

Assistant attorney general Charles Brasington, as counsel for then-Department of Public

See OAG on Page 4



HEAD-ON COLLISION

Police and emergency medical technicians assist one of the five injured persons after a head-on collision between two cars in front of Dolphin Wholesale in San Jose on Thursday night. Except one, all injured persons are minors. The driver of the other car and his two passengers, including a 1-year-old girl, were not injured. It's not clear yet who was found at fault as the Department of Public Safety, as of yesterday, had yet to release information about the accident.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

NMI to get 'as much as it can' from proposed tuna quota transfer

» **Hawaii Longline Association offers \$200K for 3 years for CNMI's 1,000 metric tons**

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Monday he wants to "get as much as we can" from a proposed deal by Hawaii longliners to buy half of the CNMI's tuna

fishing quota for a couple of hundred thousand dollars per year, allowing them to fish past their annual catch limits if exhausted.

The Hawaii Longline Association wrote to Torres in February and offered a three-year deal—with \$200,000

paid out each year—to allow their fishing vessels to catch up to 1,000 metric tons of bigeye tuna "against the CNMI catch limit," *Saipan Tribune* learned. The offer is made on the expectation that Hawaii longliners would exhaust

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INSIDE

LOCAL

The iPhone app Academic Competition Buzzer was a major help for San Vicente Elementary School students when they were preparing for the 21st Academic Challenge Bowl.

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BUSINESS

Norma Cardoza planned to retire with a modest pension she trusted she would get from the Archdiocese of San Juan. Her faith was misplaced.

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LIFE & STYLE

A trial is needed to determine if Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" copies its opening notes from a song performed by the rock band Spirit.

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Local

Businesses called to be part of movement vs violence, abuse

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The business community was challenged by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to look into each of their organizations' "culture" as well as policies relating domestic violence and sexual abuse.

NMCADSV executive director Maisie Tenorio spoke to the members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during their monthly general membership meeting last April 6 in line with this month being proclaimed "Sexual Assault Awareness" and "Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month."

"Domestic violence and assault is everywhere. No one is immune, everyone can be a victim and that includes your employees or members of your families and that's the unfortunate reality of our world," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said they reaching out to the community to take part in their action.

"We're calling out on you to be part of the movement," Tenorio said.



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director Maisie Tenorio spoke to the members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in line with April as the "Sexual Assault Awareness" and "Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month" at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

a lot if the employees will feel comfortable to come to their employees for help should they experience abuse.

She said that one thing that a company can do is to develop policies about domestic violence and sexual abuse to help or give support to their employees who may be victimized.

Another way a company can do is to "analyze the organizational culture," according to Tenorio.

"Many of us think as sexual assault as something outside of work but often times it lives

and breathes in the spaces that we occupy. Your company may have a culture that promotes safety and health, emotional health, physical health, and that's great. But not all issues are like that," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said she "challenge you to really think about the organizational culture to analyze and how people think and feel when they work for your company."

She added that this will say

With this year's theme "Inspire courage, take action, and stop sexual violence" Tenorio said they are focusing on educating the public regarding assault and abuse so that they will be able to identify and know how to respond when such an incident occurs.

"Our focus, our campaign this year is to really challenge our community to be courageous about sexual assault because that's what it takes," Tenorio said, "It really is on us to end domestic violence. It

really is a call to every single one of us."

Although there is no "good local data" in the CNMI to determine cases of abuse and violence, Tenorio said their national partners noted that the "numbers are pretty serious."

Nationally, one in 400 will experience abuse, Tenorio says, while globally, 1 in 3 will be victims. Majority of the victims are still women and girls

"Think about that in our community," Tenorio said.

Mayor's Office plans to build new animal shelter in As Perdido

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is looking to build the new animal shelter at the site of the quarantine facility of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in As Perdido, according to the office's special assistant Henry Hofschneider.

Hofschneider said the then Marianas Public Lands Trust gave the DLNR the full rights and property title of the land where the quarantine facility was built. DLNR then allowed the mayor's office's Animal Control Office to transfer to As Perdido after the shelter at Lower Base closed down.

The animal shelter in Lower Base closed last March 31 based on the Department of Public Works' Building Safety Code Division's recommendation following their inspection. The building suffered extensive damage when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan

last year.

The building sustained structural damage and repair and other forms of restoration will no longer be needed. The walls and tin roof of the animal shelter were torn apart by Soudelor's strong winds that reached a maximum of 180 miles per hour.

"It doesn't make sense to repair the animal shelter and spend money on an already condemned facility. Also, we still need to entirely demolish the animal shelter in Lower Base before we can build a new one," said Hofschneider.

"[The Federal Emergency Management Agency] also advised us to raise the floors by at least 6 feet since the shelter is on a flood zone area," he added.

Hofschneider said that DLNR, under Secretary Richard B. Seman, allowed them to build the permanent facility—the new shelter—on the land since their department also deals with animals, including

their health and welfare.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said, in a separate interview last month, that they already received the money from FEMA.

Hofschneider said that the only thing left to do is to ask FEMA's permission to use the money they gave to mayor's office to build the new shelter. FEMA gave the mayor's office \$324,000 as federal aid to help repair the damaged shelter in Lower Base.

"We are trying to get FEMA's permission since we need to use the money for repairs only and not to construct a new facility," said Hofschneider. "But I believe they would give us permission."

Hofschneider added that they had already informed DPW to have one of their architects start with the plans and to begin inspecting the topography of the site. "They said that they should start preparing in a few weeks."

Yamada parents, fiancée to join Saipan Marathon

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Hideki and Kozue Yamada, the parents of missing Japanese sisters Natsuki and Chinatsu, along with the latter's fiancée, Kenichi Ichikawa, will be among the hundreds of runners that will be joining this year's Annual Saipan Marathon on Saturday, April 16.

The Yamadas and Ichikawa will use the annual running event to continue to raise awareness about the two Japanese sisters, who went missing two years ago on June 29.

Hideki will be running the 13.1-mile half marathon course, his wife Kozue joined the 10-kilometer race, while Ichikawa, the fiancée of Chinatsu, will be doing the 50K Kanpei course with some of his friends. All of them will be wearing a T-shirt that says "Looking for Yamada Sisters."

Gun start for the 50K run

and marathon is at 4am, while the half marathon begins after an hour. The 10K participants head to the course at 5:45am.

Hideki and Kozue, who runs an apple farm in Nagano prefecture, was on Saipan again in January this year. Chinatsu works as a biotechnologist with a private company in Hokkaido.

The Yamadas and Ichikawa registered to join the Saipan Marathon on their own. The three had been coming back to Saipan since Natsuki and Chinatsu went missing on the night of June 29.

The sisters, who arrived on Saipan on June 28, 2014, were supposed to fly back to Japan at 6am on June 30. The car rental company called Mariana Resort & Spa, where they were staying while on the island, when their vehicle was not returned.

The hotel then informed the Department of Public Safety

about their disappearance and immediately formed a search and rescue team to look for the Yamada sisters.

The rental car was found at 12:08pm on Monday at Wing Beach, which is near Mariana Resort, with their personal belongings including passports still intact. They also found clothing and towels, which has the car keys tucked underneath, believed to belong to the sisters.

The U.S. Coast Guard, which joined the search, spotted the raft north of Banzai Cliff at 8:33am on July 2. DPS personnel then recovered the deflated raft at 10:21am the same day.

Natsuki and Chinatsu traveled to Saipan as the former's late birthday gift to her younger sister.

The Yamadas and Ichikawa are not giving up the search for the sisters and even offered \$10,000 cash as reward.



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Torres to meet with Gov. Ige in Hawaii

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres flew to Hawaii yesterday and has scheduled a meeting with Hawaii Gov. David Ige on April 14, the Office of the Governor said yesterday.

Torres, who is being accompanied by Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), will also be flying to American Samoa after his three-day trip in Hawaii to, among others, meet with Gov. Lolo Letalu Matalasi Moliga, the governor's office also said,

on an invite to attend their Flag Day Celebration 2016, which falls on April 17.

Torres on Monday told reporters that while in Hawaii, he would be meeting with Westpac Fisheries Council, the Hawaii Medical Referral Office, and Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, the single point of contact for the CNMI on Department of Defense matters, to talk to him about the "Tinian-only" divert airfield



Torres

project.

On his America Samoa trip, Torres said he will be meeting with their power plant officials and looking into the feasibility of "a fuel tank" option for the

CNMI's local utility.

"We are looking at having our own fuel tank here and seeing the feasibility if it's something we'll be able to get here and to build our own facility."

Torres also said he be meeting with Moliga to learn

more about federal grants and how American Samoa incorporates that into their annual budget.

Torres this "gives a better overview of the whole budget," which "we don't have here," as the NMI has federal grants separate from their general funds and revenue.

"I am going to be learning how that is done and how we can incorporate that into our government funding budget," he added.

Torres said CUC officials would not be accompanying him on this trip.

CUC asked to deal with millions worth of liability to Coast Guard

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is being asked for "a couple of million dollars" it apparently owes the U.S. Coast Guard for various cleanup activities done in the past years.

CUC legal counsel James Sirok first brought the matter to the board of directors' meeting last March saying that it was he discussed it with the representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We incurred from U.S. Coast Guard clean up expenses way back since 2008," Sirok said.

"Now we've been approached again by EPA, their attorneys, to deal with these Coast Guard costs," he added.

According to Sirok, the assessment of cleanup costs and expenses were basically from 2010 to 2012 and some from 2014 to 2015 and were related to oil contamination on Saipan.

"Those cleanup expenses, which are in the millions of dollars, have been sort of moved on through the years based on waiver we got from the Coast Guard, based on representation that we don't have the ability to pay for those," Sirok said.

The board wasn't aware of such liability and board chair Adelina Roberto said it was the first time she heard it again since last year, which dealt with EPA assessments.

Roberto and the other members raised the question of how much exactly do they need to pay and whether the liability was ever recorded because it was not on their books.

"If it's not on the books then we don't know anything," director Joe Torres said.

Sirok responded that CUC received an official assessment letter for the costs incurred.

"It's been assessed to us. The assessments were made before I came on board. Last time we dealt with this in 2013 to request to the Coast Guard that we don't have to pay for this because we don't have the money," Sirok said.

Sirok said they were allowed to "forego payment" before board members came on board.

"We have to deal with this issue again," Sirok said, adding that they will look into asking the Coast Guard "to again defer payment."

"If we end up having to pay this, it will have to go to the rates," he added.

Taitano appointed acting secretary of CUC board

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors representative from Rota Albert Taitano was appointed as the board's acting secretary.

During the board's meeting last Friday, CUC board chair Adelina Roberto appointed Taitano to be the acting secretary following Chris Concepcion's notice of resignation.

Concepcion, who was appointed and confirmed to

the CUC board on March 2014, will be resigning effective April 15 due to his new position as the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Taitano, on the other hand, has served the board for only a year so far. He was confirmed after being appointed in March last year.

Because an election for the board must be noticed as part of



Taitano

their agenda, Roberto can only appoint Taitano as acting secretary. The CUC board will hold an election for their next board meeting, which is set to be held on Rota next month.

According to Roberto, they have notified the governor regarding the vacancy in their board.

"It's the governor who will replace him," Roberto said, "They're probably tossing

out names."

Roberto said Concepcion was a great member of the board.

"I wish the replacement is just as great as [Chris]. We need somebody we can work with," Roberto said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed in his earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* that he will be looking into Concepcion's replacement as well as re-appointing or replacing commissioners for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

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THE CHINA'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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13th Annual NMC Foundation Open

An event to benefit higher education in the Northern Mariana Islands

Saturday, April 30, 2016

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course)
Showtime: 6:00 am/Shotgun Start: 7:00 am

Registration Fee: \$100
Maximum 120 players
Limited Slots Available
First come, first serve

For Registration & Payment
NMC Cashier's Office
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

For More Information
Log on to www.marianas.edu
Call (670) 237- 6764/237-6780
E-mail: james.glenn@marianas.edu



Groups hold off on suing Navy over training project

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Local and national environmental groups have held off, for now, on suing the Department of the Navy past an original 60-day notice given in February, upon further review of further information the groups said they have received from the Navy.

Alternative Zero Coalition, PaganWatch, and the nation-wide Center of Biological Diversity, among other groups, notified the Navy of their intent to sue two months ago, pinning the grounds of a lawsuit on the Navy's and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service alleged failure to reconsider an expansive military training project in the Marianas despite newly declared and threatened species last October.

PaganWatch co-founder Peter Perez said yesterday that the groups are "in talks with the Navy to determine whether the Navy is taking the necessary steps to comply" with Endangered Species Act with respect to the Marianas Islands Training and Testing, or MITT, project and the newly endangered species.

"The Navy has provided the promised information, which we are reviewing," Earthjustice, whose one of attorneys sent the notice to sue, also said in a statement.

Perez said they would be pleased if their notice letter prodded the Navy into complying with its obligations under the ESA, "but are not yet in a position to say whether or not it has."

"If the Navy does not take the necessary steps to com-

ply with its duty to protect the newly listed species, we intend to take the Navy to court," Perez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Queries to a Navy spokesperson to confirm these developing "talks" were not immediately responded to as of press time yesterday.

In the February letter, Earthjustice attorney David Henkin said the Navy and the Service had violated and remains in ongoing violation of the ESA, arguing that the newly listed should have reinitiated consultation between the Service and Navy.

Henkin quoted the Service's own words in their final rule on the matter: "The [Marianas Islands Training and Testing area] opens up every island within the Mariana Archipelago as a potential training site."

The Service said this "sub-

sequently may result in negative impacts to any number of the 23 species addressed."

The project increases "training activities in Guam, Rota, Saipan, Tinian, Farallon de Medinilla (increase in bombing), and Pagan," the Service also said.

And "likely negative impacts include, but are not limited to, direct damage to individuals from live-fire training and ordnance, wildfire resulting from live-fire and ordnance, direct physical damage (e.g. trampling by humans, helicopter landing, etc.) to individuals, and spread of non-native species."

Henkin said the new rule made clear that the Navy training may affect the newly listed species—"triggering the obligation to reinitiate consultation."

OAG

From Page 1

Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and Department of Finance secretary Larrisa Larson, filed on Monday a notice of change in law before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Brasington said Public Law 19-42, the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement (SAFE), was signed into law.

Brasington said SAFE removes the ban on possession of handguns.

He said SAFE also establishes new rules for transporting and using firearms.

Brasington said SAFE maintains the prohibition on rifles in calibers above .22 and .223, and shotguns of gauge greater than .410.

He said SAFE creates an assault weapon ban.

The assault weapon includes a semi-automatic rifle in a caliber greater than .223

that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine.

Brasington said the government believes that the WSAR rifle that Murphy wishes to possess falls within the assault weapon definition, but further research is needed before the Commonwealth files a motion to that effect.

Murphy's lawsuit seeks to repeal the CNMI Weapons Control Act and all associated legislation, licensing, taxation, recording, administration, and processing.

Murphy alleged that DPS withheld all his firearms and ammunition until the issuance of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is being held by the CNMI DPS Firearms Section. He said DPS has denied his repeated requests to carry and possess his rifle and pistol.

NMI

From Page 1

their own catch quota, and similar agreements with the CNMI have been made in the last several years.

The offered payment is not tied down to whether the longliners actually end up using the CNMI quota, *Saipan Tribune* learned, and the \$200,000 would be paid without regard the amount of catch HLA has in any given year.

"I am trying to get as much as we can," Torres said on Monday, "by meeting with our stakeholders in Hawaii and utilizing what we have here and seeing what we gave last year and what are giving up in the years coming." Torres will be in Hawaii for three days and flew out yesterday.

Asked if he has received any information whether the offer was a "lowball," Torres said the CNMI's neighboring islands asked for \$1 million "and that was shot down right away."

"As much as we want a million dollars we will get as much as we can" so "that the industry continue to grow," Torres said.

Still, an industry source from a neighboring island said the \$200,000 price was "not enough."

Using their formula to calculate market value of tons per yen or dollar, the source estimated a market value for the CNMI's 1,000 metric tons at between \$887,280 to \$1.2 million.

The CNMI is allotted 1,000 metric tons for big eye tuna as part of regulations in for fish-

ing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean as managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Office of the Governor spokesman Ivan Blanco earlier said that the CNMI is "actively reviewing available options including comparable market values from nearby island countries before an acceptance of the offer will be made."

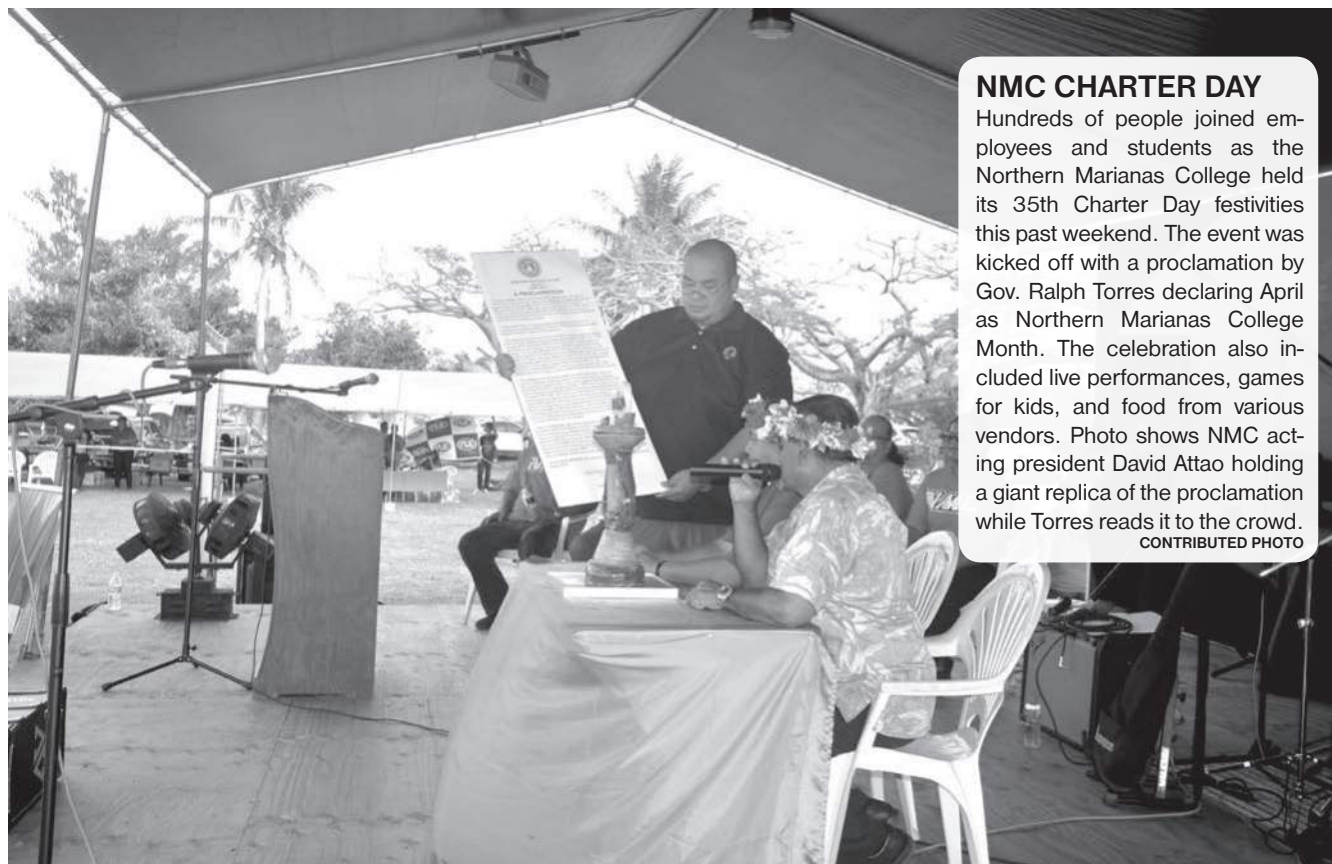
Department of Lands and Natural Resource Secretary Richard Seman, for his part, said they always do and hope for money but at the same time, "we want to be reasonable and extend our assistance to the Hawaii Longline Fishery Association who had been cut short by the overall international regulations."

Asked if he thought the offer was market value or "a fair price," Seman said it was not so much market value as "it is not based on what they catch."

"They are just assuming that they catch that amount of quota. If they don't catch anything, it is their loss," he told reporters Monday.

Seman said the United States has been in the "forefront of compliance" under the rules that Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission has set up but it was "sad that [the U.S.] gets kind of short-changed at the end of the day when it comes down to allocation" of fishing quota.

Seman said U.S. longliners are now using "its own territories' quota" but added they are not going out and seeking other national quotas as compared to other longliners from China who are buying out some of Japan's quota.



NMC CHARTER DAY

Hundreds of people joined employees and students as the Northern Marianas College held its 35th Charter Day festivities this past weekend. The event was kicked off with a proclamation by Gov. Ralph Torres declaring April as Northern Marianas College Month. The celebration also included live performances, games for kids, and food from various vendors. Photo shows NMC acting president David Attao holding a giant replica of the proclamation while Torres reads it to the crowd. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RADICH

From Page 1

tively.

Sigale said through April 11, 2016, for spending 109.2 hours at \$500 an hour rate, his attorney's fees is \$54,600; while for spending 102.9 hours at \$250 an hour, his fees is \$25,725, or for a total of \$80,325.

Guidotti said through April 5, 2016, for spending 87.7 hours at \$175 an hour, his fees is \$15,347.50.

The lawyers said they incurred \$8,241.33 in costs.

Sigale and Guidotti said having completely prevailed per U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's order on March 28, 2016, and pursuant to said order, the plaintiffs are entitled to recover their attorney's fees

and costs.

The Radich couple, challenged, on Second Amendment grounds, the CNMI's prohibition on the possession and importation of handguns and ammunition, as well as the CNMI's ban on the use of firearms for self-defense purposes.

The couple also challenged, on 14th Amendment equal protection grounds, the ban on lawful resident aliens obtaining weapons identification cards for self-defense purposes.

The couple sued then-Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

According to the complaint, in 2010, while Mr. Radich was away and his wife, Li-Rong, was at home alone on Saipan, their house was invaded. Li-

Rong was attacked and beaten up resulting in serious injuries. The invader ran away after she screamed for help.

The couple applied for weapons permit in July 2013, but was denied. This prompted them to file the lawsuit.

In her March 28 ruling, Manglona declared unconstitutional the CNMI's gun control law that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

Manglona ruled that the handgun and handgun ammunition and their import ban contained in the provisions of the CNMI Weapons Control Act are declared unconstitutional and in violation of the Covenant that incorporated the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Sigale and Guidotti said they submit that the quality

of their work, and the result achieved, speaks for themselves.

The lawyers said as of March 28, a new constitutional order respecting fundamental, enumerated rights prevailed throughout the CNMI.

Sigale said he has successfully litigated Second Amendment cases across the U.S.

In addition to his constitutional litigation practice, Sigale litigates such other complex issues as antitrust law and employment discrimination.

Sigale has been named to the Illinois Super Lawyers list every year since 2012.

Guidotti previously worked as an assistant public defender for the CNMI Office of the Public Defender, and as associate legal counsel for Bridge Capital LLC. Most recently, he is a solo practitioner.

Man arrested for allegedly threatening to burn own family

A man was arrested for allegedly burning papers, throwing \$250 into a fire, and threatening to burn his family at their residence in Koblerville Turnkey Housing on Saturday night.

Jesse Billy Mailuw Jr., 40, was arrested on Monday night in Koblerville for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for April 19 at 1:30pm.

Camacho appointed assistant public defender Tillman Clark as counsel for Mailuw. Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen appeared for

the government.

According to Police Detective Peter A. Aldan in his report, a patrol officer responded to Koblerville Turnkey Housing on Saturday at 2:24am shortly after the Department of Public Safety Central received a call about a domestic violence.

Aldan said when the officer arrived at the house Mailuw had

already fled the scene on foot.

Aldan said preliminary investigation showed that on Friday night, Mailuw got mad of the mess in the room of his 15-year-old daughter.

Mailuw threatened that if he comes back in 10 minutes and it's still a mess, he was going to burn his daughter's room and her clothes.

As Mailuw was talking with his wife in the living room, he started to get mad, burned some papers, and threw them at his wife's chest while she was carrying their baby.

Mailuw threatened his wife that he's going to burn all of

them in the house.

The wife put out the paper that was burning in the living room. Mailuw sat down in the living room and began burning papers and threw them at his wife.

When the daughter tried to stop Mailuw, the latter got angrier and grabbed a Tupperware containing soup and threw it at his mother. The soup instead hit the wall, splashing all over his mother.

Mailuw then took money from his mother and tried to burn it. The wife grabbed the money away, preventing Mailuw from burning the money.

The daughter said while she was helping her grandmother clean the soup off the floor, Mailuw again burned papers and threw them thrice at her grandmother.

Mailuw demanded from his wife \$250 in payment for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power bill.

Mailuw took the money outside and threw it into a fire that was burning outside.

The son ran to his aunt's house and asked her to call the police because they were all scared of their father burning them and the house. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Registered sex offender pleads guilty for sexually abusing girl

Price Ekon Shoiter, a 69-year-old registered sex offender, entered a guilty plea yesterday in connection with the charges that he sexually abused a 7-year-old girl at a residence in Dandan.

Shoiter signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty to the offenses of impermissible contact with minors and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted Shoiter's guilty plea and the plea deal.

Govendo set the sentencing for July 5, 2016 at 1:30pm.

Govendo ordered the Office of the Adult Probation to prepare a presentence investigation report.

Under the plea agreement, the defendant shall be sentenced to 15 years in prison, all suspended except for an open sentence of five to 10 years to be determined at a sentencing hearing after a presentence investigation has been conducted.

The prison sentence shall be served day for day without the possibility of parole, early release, or work release.

Shoiter will also be given credit for time served.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

Shoiter will be required to pay a \$500 probation fee, \$100 fine, and \$25 in court costs.

The defendant shall abide by all the terms and conditions of the Sex Offender Registry, including notifying the Department of Public Safety of any address changes within two days of said change, and not living in a household with any non-biological minors.

Shoiter will also be prohibited from having contact with the victim during the entire probationary period. He will be required to continue to register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley stated that according to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Nov. 13, 2015 on Saipan, Shoiter, while subject to the Sex Offender Registration requirements, stayed in his home knowing that his girlfriend's granddaughter was staying there for the weekend.

Foley said at the time, Shoiter was subject to conditions of the CNMI Sex Offender Registry Act prohibiting him from residing in or having contact with a residence while minors are present.

The prosecutor said that on that same day, Shoiter engaged in sexual contact with a 7-year-old girl by touching her private part with his hand.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato appeared as counsel for Shoiter.

Shoiter was arrested last Nov. 15.

According to police detective Rhonda C. John, a police officer responded to a residence in Dandan on Nov. 15 after the Department of Public Safety received a call about a sexual abuse incident.

John said investigation showed that while the girl was sleeping sideways, Shoiter touched her private part.

The girl eventually told her father about what happened.

Shoiter was convicted in March 2004 for sexually abusing a minor. He served a prison term and registered as a convicted sex offender. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



'JAILED' FOR CHARITY

JON PEREZ

Some of the "prisoners" inside the jail managed by the Lady Diann Foundation-Northern Marianas College Marianas March Against Cancer team are seen in this photo. The jail was set up last weekend during Northern Marianas College's Charter Day celebration.



Office of the Public Auditor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING

This is to remind all individuals who may be required to file OPA Form EC-101, the Statement of Financial Interest, that the **deadline for filing without penalty is May 31, 2016**. The filing of this form, including a Notary's verification, covers calendar year 2015 and is required by the Government Ethics Code (1 CMC § 8501, et seq.). Any person failing to comply with the financial disclosure requirement of this law is subject to financial and other penalties, including a **\$10 per day fine** for any periods of delinquency.

The following individuals are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest:

- Each elected Commonwealth official.
- Each appointed Commonwealth or judicial officer, including department Secretaries, Directors and their deputies, regular or acting members of Boards, Commissions and Task Forces.
- Each public employee who received additional compensation in calendar year 2015 either for professional services they may have rendered or as an independent contractor for any government agency of the Commonwealth.

You may obtain forms from several sources including the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA), located on Capitol Hill at 1236 Yap Drive (phone 322-6481/2), or you may download the required form from OPA's web site at www.opacnmi.com. Also, notary services needed in verifying the form is available at OPA free of charge.

For more information, please visit or call OPA; or contact OPA via e-mail at mail@opacnmi.com.

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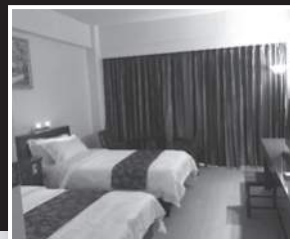
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SC affirms man's conviction for sexually abusing minor girl

»Justices, however, vacate sentence; order resentencing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the conviction of Alfredo Evangelista Reyes, a man who was slapped in 2014 with the maximum of 30 years in prison for sexually abusing a then 16-year-old girl in 2009.

The high court, however, found that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho abused his discretion by denying Reyes' request for a presentence investigation report.

The high court vacated the sentence and remanded the matter to the Superior Court for resentencing.

The Supreme Court concluded that because there was ample evidence supporting a sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree conviction, Reyes fails to demonstrate a reasonable probability the error affected the outcome of the proceeding.

Associate Justice Perry B. Inos issued the opinion. Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justice John A. Manglona concurred the ruling.

According to the prosecution, Reyes sexually abused

the girl at Laulau Beach in May 2009, at Coral Ocean Point beach in September 2009, and in the jungle area near Hawaiian Rock Co. in December 2009.

On Dec. 13, 2013, a Superior Court jury reached a unanimous verdict, finding Reyes guilty of three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Camacho, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found the defendant guilty of three counts of assault and battery.

On Jan. 22, 2014, Camacho sentenced the then-51-year-old Reyes to the maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment and, among other conditions, required him to register as a sex offender.

Camacho said so that Reyes and others who sexually abuse children will be justly punished and deterred, he imposes the full maximum sentence of 30 years, to be served day for day, without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, weekend or work release, or other similar programs.

Camacho said his court will hear children who seek protection from sexual abuse.

Reyes then appealed, asking the Supreme Court to reverse his conviction

and sentence.

In his appeal, Reyes, through counsel attorney Vincent J. Seman, argued that Camacho erred by failing to read substantive jury instructions following the close of evidence and by denying his request for presentence investigation report.

In the high court's opinion issued on Friday, the justices ruled that in order to prove sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, the law requires the Commonwealth demonstrate the defendant was 18 years of age or older; engaged in sexual penetration with someone who was under the age of 18; and was the alleged victim's natural parent, stepparent, adopted parent, or legal guardian.

The justices said critically, the victim specifically testified that on each occasion, Reyes removed his clothing, directed the victim to undress, forced himself upon her, and caused pain in her private parts.

The justices said Camacho's instructions for the dismissed charges were removed from the jurors' packets and the jury was twice instructed to disregard those charges.

The justices said Camacho also directed the jury to disregard instructions that were

removed from the jackets.

The justices said there is no indication the jurors were confused by the dismissal of charges or by the removal of instructions from their packets.

Furthermore, the justices said, Reyes does not show how consideration of the discarded instructions or dismissed charges could have caused the jury to convict when it would otherwise find him not guilty.

"Thus Reyes' claim that the court's error could have lead to jury confusion is merely speculative," the justices said.

On the presentence investigation report issue, citing a precedent high court ruling, the justices said Camacho justified his denial of a presentence investigation report because of the straightforwardness of the case.

Further, the justices said, Camacho neither explained how the record contained the information that a presentence investigation report would have included nor did he conduct a de facto presentence investigation report on the record.

Assistant attorneys general Barbara P. Cepeda and Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government at the hearing before the high tribunal.

Off-island volunteers also welcome for Liberation Day

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the 2016 Liberation Day committee are now accepting volunteers that would help them in this year's 71st Liberation Day festivities. The celebration opens on June 10 with the carnival and the parade is set on July 4.

Skywalker Communications Group account director Sophia Alvarez and Leni Leon are handling the applications for volunteers. Forms can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office or at Skywalker's office at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Interested individuals who want to volunteer, especially for overseas applicants, can also download the forms at the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festival's Facebook page. The form is in PDF format.

Alvarez said they are encouraging all graduating students, in high school and college, who are trying to earn additional credits for their community service to sign up to volunteer and help plan in organizing the festival.

"We are accepting even those who are off-island and would love to volunteer, especially graduating students. We want to give them the chance to help organize the biggest celebration in

the CNMI," said Alvarez.

"This is open to all who are seeking volunteer opportunities. We want to introduce them to events planning and get the chance to be involved doing volunteer work and community service,"

Alvarez added that food, lodging, and transportation would be provided to off-island volunteers. One of the requirements for off-island volunteers is having some experience in helping organize huge events.

"A lot of people are sending us Facebook messages or calling the office inquiring on how to volunteer. We are generating attention and the interest is there from the community to go out and volunteer. We're trying to have a better celebration this year," Alvarez said.

"This is their chance to learn and get experience in events planning. This is a good chance for them to get involved in community work. We don't have numbers yet on how many had already signed up but we are gaining ground," she added.

Leon said that one of the ways they are using to attract volunteers is visiting schools. "We are conducting visits from different schools like [the Northern Marianas College]. And, we talk to them about doing volunteer work "



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE OF CUC'S PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER ELECTRIC CHARGES AND PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 4-6, 2016

This is a notice of a formal request to eliminate the Water Electric Charge (WEC) and Wastewater Electric Charge (WWEC) and to increase the electric rates, fees and/or charges of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), ("Rate Case"), and of the public hearing before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) which regulates CUC pursuant to Public Law 15-35, as amended.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on **May 4-6, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**, at CUC's main conference room (Room 17), third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the above regulatory matters in Dockets 13-01 and 15-03. The Commission will later conduct a special business meeting on May 25, 2016, to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing.

In 2013, under Docket No. 13-01, the CPUC considered several rate related matters which included LEAC (now FAC) reconciliation, net metering and the need for a review of unaccounted for energy. These matters will again be considered during the May public hearing, including a request from CUC to move from a six (6) month FAC reconciliation period to a monthly FAC reconciliation.

On April 23, 2015, CUC filed a petition and supporting evidence with the Commission to remove the WEC and WWEC in favor of an electric surcharge under Rate Case Docket No. 15-03. This petition was amended on March 10, 2016, for the sole purpose of modifying the proposed electric surcharge under the petition from \$0.0194 per kWh to \$0.01369 per kWh. This elimination of the WEC and the WWEC in favor of an electric surcharge of \$0.01369 kWh will become effective as determined by the Commission.

CUC requests that the CPUC modify its WEC and WWEC policies to eliminate the charges and replace them with an electric surcharge. This will lessen the burden on residential ratepayers relative to their water and wastewater charges. It is possible that consideration of this particular request will be deferred to a later time upon further notice from CUC and/or the CPUC.

The rate case filing, in its entirety, is available on CUC's website at: <http://www.cucgov.org>. Please click on "Regulatory Matters/Public Utilities Commission" then click on "March 10, 2016 Rate Application - Docket No. 15-03" to view or download the documents. A written copy of all petition materials will also be available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-16-006

SR-1 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT (S-11-015)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of SR-1 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of SR-1 Sewer Lift Station.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-16-006, SR-1 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 03, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer - via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Golden Harvest excel in NJSDA, PGFC, Math Court tilts

Once again, Golden Harvest International School students proved their worth by winning different awards in Primary Grade Forensic Conference, National Junior Speech and Debate Association, Math Court, and Mathleague Competitions.

“To our students, we are proud of your achievements and thank you for bringing honor to your school. Congratulations! To our parents, teachers, coaches and judges, thank you for your support and dedication truly made a difference,” the school said.

PGFC Regional Competition (March 19, 2016)

K-2 DIVISION

Chamorro Reader's Forum

Terrell Earl D. Hix (Gold)

Quinn Thomas B. Palacios (Silver)

Humorous Interpretation

Carlin Mei Santos (4th place)

Arthur Angel Deliva (Duo bronze)

Dane Tibayan (Duo bronze)

Stephanie Sevilla (Duo 4th place)

Austyn Trasmano (Duo 4th place)

Kyrell Caraig (Choral Speaking silver)

Jan Andrei Dumagan (Choral Speaking silver)

David Christian Salinas (Choral Speaking silver)

Ezekiel Rhopher Joson (Choral



Golden Harvest International School PGFC winners pose with their teacher-coaches Belinda J. Acosta, Leonor V. Marfil, Imelda C. Bautista, Nestor B. Tam, Jeanne M. Salcedo, and Aida L. Viloria.

Speaking silver)

Quinn Thomas Palacios (Choral

Speaking silver)

3-5 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation

Ernest Licop (4th place)

Chamorro Reader's Forum

Tamia Lei Hix (gold)

NJSDA Regional Competition (Feb. 27, 2016)

Original Oratory

Raesy Gerard Solis (3rd place)

Chamorro Poetry

Michelle Leon Guerrero (3rd place)

Math Court Competition (March 5, 2016)

4-6 GRADE LEVEL

John Paul Labadan (2nd place)

Raesy Gerard L. Solis

K-3 DIVISION

Ralph Laurence Borja

(1st place)

Silver Sabrina J. Ferrera (1st place)

Jan Alverne Santos (2nd place)

Liam S. Wilson (2nd place)

Vhonn Vincent Flandez (3rd place)

Carlin Mei Santos (3rd place) (PR)




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest NJSDA winners pose with trainer Nestor Tam principal Aida L. Viloria.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest Math Court winners pose with their teacher-coaches Belinda J. Acosta, Leonor V. Marfil, Nestor B. Tam, and Aida L. Viloria.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-16-010

TINIAN WATER SYSTEM PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the installation of pressure reducing stations and installation of 10-in PVC Waterline Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the installation of approximately 1400 linear feet of 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, the relocation and replacement of two existing pressure reducing valves (PRV's), the installation of a new PRV, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **April 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-16-010, Tinian Water System Pressure Improvements Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.


Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 22, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-16-007

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE (CUC ROTA)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation in Rota, CNMI.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 2:00 PM (ChST) on April 15, 2016 at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo Village, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -16-007, Lease of Office Space (CUC Rota)" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2016**.

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponent due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proponent's preparation of a proposal under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proponents for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the Proponent awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The Proponent awarded a contract shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 18, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

SHRM, PIC donates to KHS' Million Dollar Scholar

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Donors continue to support Kagman High School's Million Dollar Scholar.

Among them are the Society of Human Resource Management-NMI chapter and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan who contributed \$1,500 each.

During SHRM's meeting at PIC last March 31, KHS teacher Gerard van Gils shared their program's vision and his students' need with regards to attending college.

Out of their 20 scholars, van Gils presented Josepha Dela Cruz Cabrera who read her essay.

Cabrera shared her story as a farmer's young daughter who grew up helping her family sell produce during Saturdays at the Sabalu Market.

"Now that I am more grown, applying for scholarships and writing reflective essays, I have learned that my father's real harvest is me. He grew me as vibrant as our greens, he raised me as strong as our coconut trees, he brought me up with a culture as rich as our soil. I can read the plants, I can read Shakespeare. I know I can succeed because my life has taught me that work ethic is more important than innate ability," Cabrera shared.

Cabrera said that even though she will leave the island to study, she made sure that she will return. "More important than leaving, I will return. I will come home ready for harvest, fully grown and mature. I will honor my ancestors by raising and improving the next generations in our sacred land. I will teach my children the names of the plants in Chamorro, I will



The Society for Human Resources-NMI Chapter donated \$1,500 to Kagman High School's Million Dollar Scholars as part of their mission to promote education.



KHS' Million Dollar Scholars also received \$1,500 from the Pacific Islands Cub. In exchange, PIC said they want a report of the student's life once they go attend college.

teach them to speak Tagalog, I will read them poetry in English. I know college will be

work and leaving my island will be hard, but this farmer's daughter will never lack ef-

fort; I will never leave the job half-done," Cabrera said.

According to van Gils, they

are hoping to publish Cabrera's essay along with the essays of the 19 other scholars in a book

entitled "Reflections of Survival and Scholarship" that they hope to release this month.

They are continually seeking support from the public to help them raise \$1 million in scholarship funds for flights, clothing, and other stuff for the first generation of Million Dollar Scholars.

SHRM-NMI chapter president Josephine DLG Mesta presented van Gils the check.

"One of the mission in our by-laws to promote educate so we decided that it is a very, very good cause," Mesta said, "Since we're in charge of the labor force, who else right?"

PIC executive assistant manager Vicky Benavente also presented a check to van Gils that same day.

Benavente said they want to support the students in achieving their dreams. In exchange for their donation, they will require the students to share a report about their college education.

App turns review more fun for Team SVES

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The iPhone app Academic Competition Buzzer was a major help for San Vicente Elementary School students when they were preparing for the 21st Academic Challenge Bowl. And the result, winning this year's competition held last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Yvette Tenorio, who is one of the coaches of the five students, said that she and two other mentors used the app to make learning more fun. They used AC Buzzer as moderator every time they study and review before the contest.

AC Buzzer is an educational tool that was developed to help elementary teachers with classroom work in their respective schools.

Alvin Borja and Cristina



San Vicente Elementary School coaches Yvette Tenorio, back left, and Alvin Borja, flash the No. 1 sign after their students topped this year's 21st Academic Challenge Bowl last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Yohanan are the other coaches of the team that is composed of one fourth grader and four fifth graders. Matz Catindig, Tyana Cepeda, Ava Deleon Guerrero, Phaedra Pangelinan, and Brigit Tabuena are the members.

"Us coaches, we alternated in reviewing them of various subjects. We allotted one day each for a specific subject but we covered everything, from geography to mathematics," said Tenorio, a fifth grade teacher.

"Yvette has two days of reviewing the kids since she handles Math, while Alvin and me spend one day each. We made our reviews fun but a learning experience, so they won't be overwhelmed," added Tenorio.

Tenorio, Borja, and Yohanan began reviewing the five members of the team in early February. Their sessions have been 40 minutes of study and 40 minutes of quiz.

It was a close contest with only five points separating the top three teams. San Vicente tallied 350 points to clinch the top honors and was closely followed by the 345 of William S. Reyes Elementary School, while Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School was also not far behind with 340.

Agape Christian School, Green Meadows School, Garapan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Northern Marianas International School, Saipan International School, Sinalo of Rota, and Tanapag Elementary School are the other competing elementary schools.

Tinian Elementary School and Mt. Carmel School were also invited but failed to field a team in this year's edition of the tournament organized by the Marianas High School Honor Society under adviser Loraine Acatienza.

HYATT 20TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

AK Saipan donates '16 Tacoma as hole-in-1 prize

Atkins-Kroll Saipan president Douglas A. Brennan proudly presented Hyatt Regency Saipan with their one-of-a-kind

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CUC schedules power interruption this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there is a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, April 16, from 7:30am to 12:30pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely replace four rotted primary power poles along Isa Dr. in San Vicente. The power poles are severely rotted and must be replaced immediately to ensure the safety of ongoing vehicular and traffic in the area. CUC greatly appreciates the understanding of the community during this period.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected: Kiya 1 (partials of 1st partial): San Vicente Isa Dr. (San Vicente Loop, Tutturam Dr., Hotdu Dr., Cao Ln., Ala Ln., Afok Dr., Lansa Pl., Neuheim Pl., Atkiya Dr., Anaguan Ln., Lupok Way., Ankla Pl., Abaniku Ln., Bentana Dr., Eskalera Ln., Shoko Dr., Gadde Dr., Latte Ln., Metati Pl., Taga Dr., Monitor Pl., Lommok Pl., Kalahi Ln., Nativo Dr., Kommat Way., Lamasa Pl., Palu Ln., Kahida Pl., Laulau Bay Dr., Achon Ln., Railroad Dr., Sinagu Ln., Tininu Pl., Galak Dr., Makpong Pl., Palai Way, Mapga Ln., Langit Ln., Berbera Dr., Pakko Ln., Golondrina Dr., Nifen Ln., TanganTangan Dr., Fresko Pl., San Vicente Church, and San Vicente Elementary School). (PR)

Joint Region Marianas, Andersen Air Force Base present MixxedFit Mash-Up

ASAN, Guam—In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Joint Region Marianas (JRM) and Andersen Air

Force Base invite the public to a MixxedFit Mash-Up April 13 at the Ypao Beach Park in Tumon from 6pm to 8pm.

The free event will also promote Child Abuse Prevention Month and Alcohol Awareness Month in April.

"People are coming out to get a good workout in with Mixxed-Fit, but at the same time talking about the very serious reason for the event," said JRM Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Officer Lt. Jill Cunningham. "We are showing our support for survivors when we openly talk about this issue."

Participants are encouraged to bring bottled water and a towel.

Mixxed Fit is a people-inspired dance fitness program that is a mix of explosive dancing and boot camp toning.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. (PR)

CCA board meets on April 19

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its regular Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 3pm at the CCA Conference Room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

AMP Visitor Center closed on April

The public is advised the American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on Monday, April 25, 2016, due to mandatory training for all park personnel. The Visitor Center will resume normal hours of operations on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 9am.

For more information on the park please visit: www.nps.gov/amme. (PR)

donation for the 20th Annual Charity Golf Classic event to be held on April 23 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Atkins-Kroll's hole-in-one donation of the 2016 Toyota Tacoma, 4-cylinder, 4x4 with Access-Cab holds a manufacturer's value of more than \$34,500 on the island of Saipan. Proceeds from the event go to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation and The Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

"Community support and community involvement have

always been high priorities for Atkins Kroll Saipan. The opportunity to assist Hyatt with their annual Charity Golf Classic is always a pleasure, especially since this year marks the 20th anniversary of the tournament. We here at AK Saipan are proud to offer up the most popular light truck on the island as a hole-in-one prize for this year's tournament, in the form of a 2016 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 Access-Cab truck. We applaud the hard work and dedication the folks at Hyatt expend to orga-

nize this tournament every year and commend them on putting the proceeds from the tournament to good use in the community by supporting amazing organizations like the Make-a-Wish Foundation. For the past 20 years Hyatt has successfully grown the tournament into one of the most popular golf events on island and a key charity fundraiser. From all of us at Atkins Kroll Saipan, we wish all the players the best of luck in this year's tournament. Good golfing!" said Doug Brennan.

"We are honoured to have the support of Atkins-Kroll Saipan as an event partner, yet again, and especially for this year as it commences the 20th anniversary. We are deeply grateful for their continued support," said Hyatt general manager Nick K. Nishikawa. Atkins-Kroll's heartfelt contribution of the Toyota Tacoma qualifies the company as a hole-in-one sponsor and a Platinum event partner—the highest partnership level across our tournament. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Douglas A. Brennan; Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef de cuisine Zenn Tomokane; Hyatt Regency security manager Robin Eugenio; Atkins-Kroll Saipan F&I business manager Joaquin Blanco; Hyatt Regency executive director of Rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla; Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales associate Nicole Sablan; Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales associates Liza Taylor; Atkins-Kroll Saipan F&I manager Steve P. Sablan; Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales associate Curtis Dancoe; and Atkins-Kroll Saipan sales manager Glen V. Perez pose for a group photo.

Naval Base Guam welcomes USS Emory S. Land back to its new homeport

APRA HARBOR, Guam—After a six-month deployment in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) will return back to U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), April 11 around 9 a.m. The ship's return also marks an official homeport shift from Diego

Garcia to NBG.

Emory S. Land is a forward-deployed expeditionary submarine tender returning from an extended deployment conducting coordinated tended moorings and afloat maintenance in the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operations. The submarine tender moved its

official homeport from Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia to Naval Base Guam as part of the Navy's long-range plan to put its most advanced and capable units forward. Emory S. Land, along with fellow submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS-40), will support four fast-attack submarines in

Guam and other submarines rotating through the region.

The Emory S. Land will arrive with a crew of about 350 officers and enlisted sailors and 150 civil service mariners that provide logistical support—including food, water and electricity—to submarine forces. (PR)

Hanson Micronesia Cement, Inc. - Saipan

Terminal Manager

Responsibilities:

- Supervise daily operations of a cement distribution terminal
- Communicate effectively with our customers
- Safely operate equipment to discharge cement from vessels and load customer trucks
- Do periodic maintenance/trouble shoot all terminal equipment
- Prepare all paperwork to accompany loads and keep daily and monthly inventory records
- Ensure all employee are trained and follow safe work practices and procedures; consistent with company policies and OSHA standards

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- Good organizational skills
- Prepared to work flexible hours, including some weekends, nights, and holidays
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Please submit resume by email to derek.sadler@hanson.biz.

POI AVIATION

Invites qualified US worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Airport Service Agent (5)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent; entry-level computer skills and strong oral and written communication skills in English and preferably in Chinese and Korean languages. Be at least 18 years of age and able to travel to work locations as needed. Previous customer service experience preferred. Must be able to lift bags or items weighing up to 70 pounds. Must be able to work a fixed and/or rotating schedule including evenings, early mornings, weekends and holidays. Candidates must pass a post offer pre-employment drug test and an extensive pre-employment background check, including finger printing and criminal history record check required by Federal law.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 25, 2016. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO PALACIOS, Deceased. } CIVIL ACTION } NO. 16-0056
Date: May 17, 2016
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Judge: The Hon. David A. Wiseman
Associate Judge

To: All creditors, claimants, Joaquin Cepeda Palacios, Emilias Anthony Kazuma Palacios and Emily Beatriz Kazuma Palacios...

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for letters of administration seeking appointment of John Anthony Cepeda Palacios, as Administrator of the Estate of ANTONIO PALACIOS ("deceased"), was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 223A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guam Hustisia-Inwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 p.m., on May 17, 2016.

All persons who having any objection to the petition, or having a claim against the estate or the deceased, should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior court within sixty (60) days after the first publication. Dated this 6th day of April, 2016.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of LI PING, a female minor child. } FCD Adoption } Action No. 16-0129
and SIDNEY G. STEPHANSON } Date: April 25, 2016
Petitioner. } Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo

Notice is hereby given that a verified petition was filed in the above-entitled court for the petition for adoption of Li Ping, by the petitioner. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan.

A hearing of the above-entitled matter will be held April 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m., at the Guma Hustisia, Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SO NOTICED this 1st day of April 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Darrel Jason Jr. Camacho Roligat. We love you.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our wonderful son, Robbie Schorr. We are very proud of you! Greeting from Hannah and Jeff Schorr.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

What comes next for the US, Iran?

Tear up the Iran nuclear deal? Then what?

Donald Trump says he'd tear up the "disastrous" nuclear deal with Iran and "renegotiate." Ted Cruz vowed he would "rip to shreds this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal" on his first day in office.

But we haven't heard a compelling answer to the crucial follow-up query: Then what?

Flashback to last April: The U.S. and its partners reached a nuclear deal with Iran. In January, the deal fully kicked in.

We backed that accord as the best of bad options. We also said that the deal won't be judged on whether Tehran drops its long-running Great Satan campaign against the U.S. and co-operates on the diplomatic front. The nuclear deal begins and ends with one goal: Stop Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

If it works, it's a grand bargain. If it doesn't, it's a grand boondoggle.

So far, Iran has completed several key steps in scaling back its nuclear program. It has shipped low-enriched uranium out of the country and dismantled thousands of centrifuges.

So, yes, Tehran has followed "the letter of the agreement," President Barack Obama said earlier this month. "But the spirit of the agreement involves Iran also sending signals to the world community and businesses that it is not going to be engaging in a range of provocative actions that are going to scare businesses off. When they launch ballistic missiles with slogans calling for the destruction of Israel, that makes businesses nervous."

Tehran shows no sign of ending its belligerence, of showing the world it values global acceptance. Instead, it continues to conduct ballistic missile tests that violate a United Nations ban. It continues to fund international terror groups. One more spot-on verdict: "Sadly, behind all the talk of change, the Iran we have long known — hostile, expansionist, violent — is alive and well, and as dangerous as ever," writes Yousef Al Otaiba, ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the U.S., in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed.

Critics may argue that is sufficient grounds to tear up the nuclear deal and start over. But why would Iranians trust a president who abandons a deal negotiated by his or her predecessor without strong evidence that Tehran had cheated?

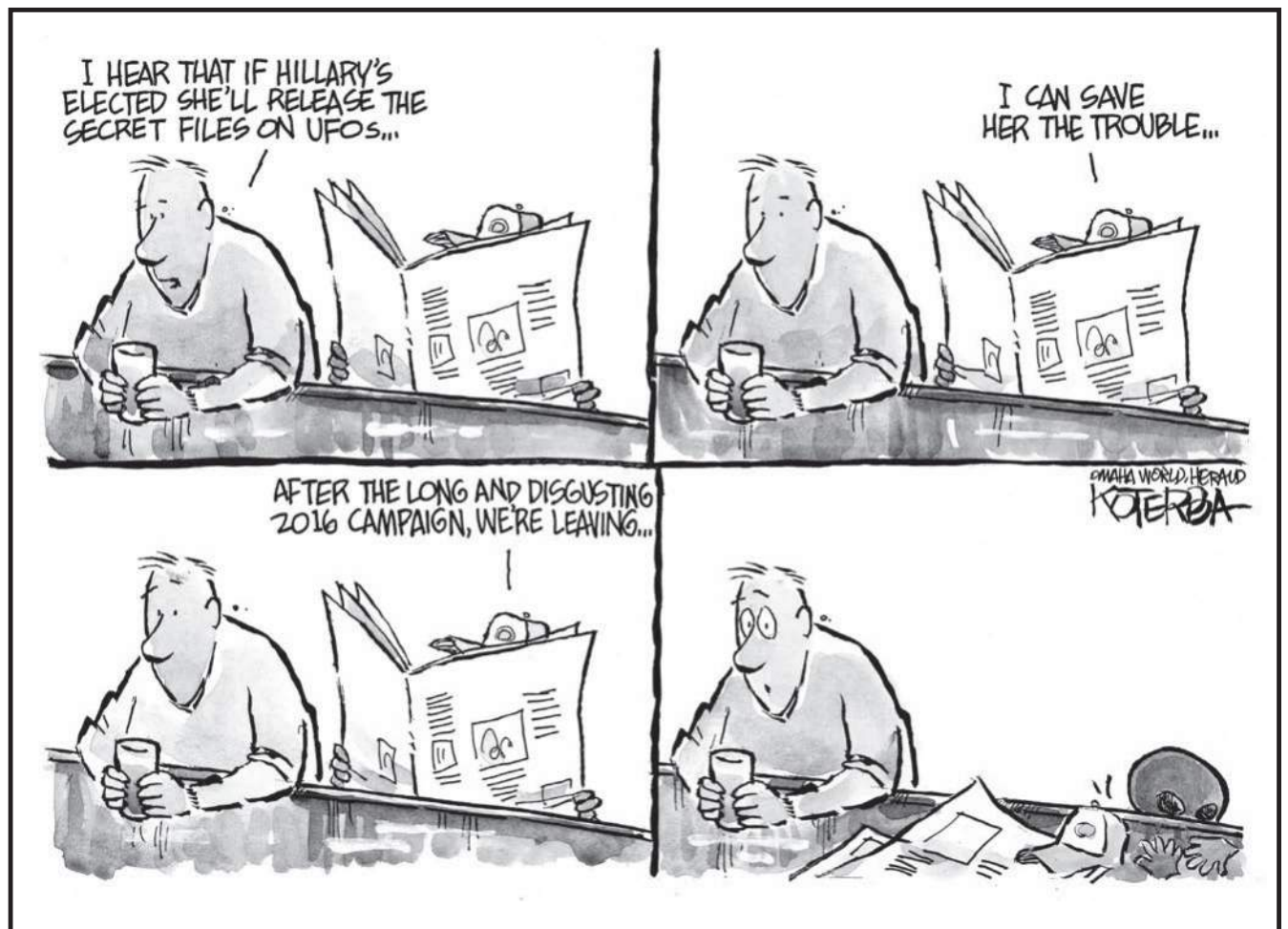
What's more, it's too late to seriously hurt Iran by nixing the deal. Tehran has already reaped billions in benefits — an argument for not agreeing to the deal in the first place but a moot argument now.

If Donald the Dealmaker wanted to negotiate one of those better deals he's always promising, what new incentives could he offer the Iranians? How would he convince the other nations that signed onto the pact — France, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, the European Union and China — to follow his lead?

If the U.S. walks away, Iran would be free to toss out inspectors, ramp up its nuclear program, and dare the world to stop it. That could require military force.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has complained that the U.S. isn't fulfilling its end of the deal.

See IRAN on Next Page



Valentine's in April

Two months ago, I bumped into my neighbor on the walkway of our FT apartment complex, and he asked why I was not someplace celebrating Valentine's Day. I told him that my wife was in China taking care of my elderly in-laws and will not be back awhile, so Valentine's will just have to wait. "Oh," he exclaimed, a bit taken back. "Right, you need to stay home," he added. Politically correct, he was.

Valentine's on Saipan is an armful of flowers and a box of chocolate, both outside the range of my budget, though I did break down and quickly picked up a six-pack of beer before my wallet got the chance to complain. My next-door neighbor brought in a plate of his wife's macaroni salad and spaghetti (cooked as pancit) with tuna, chicken, and sliced black olives. That's the gastronomic side of my heart day with a Bud mug (was going to say "V-Day" but that's usually reserved for Veterans Day, or Victory Day).

The following day, I dressed up for Park Avenue to hit income-generating activities in six places on my list. Blimey, I forgot the 14th of February was Georgie's Day. I should have known that; my column that day was the Father of the Nation, on George Washington. Inured to MLK day and the Civil Right holidays as "day on" rather than "day off," I was oblivious to the official nature of holidays when those in CNMI offices retire to the beach, or take their padded seats to mahjong tables.

I've since paid my third visit to NAP so I again had the cauliflower from California that I discovered was fully edible, the stems pleasantly chewable and the leaves an excellent additive to the soup broth. Now, I do not throw away food items so readily until I check their nutrient potential.

I once read at how the taken-for-granted coconut is actually a tree for all season, the fruit, leafs and bark convertible to numerous kinds of uses. At NAP, I noticed several folks wearing dark sunglasses pick up their food stamps, and I did not know what the social face implication was all about. The programs of assistance are for people who either objectively needs them or not, so the issue of "shame" is an elitist status sentiment more than anything else.

But earlier in the day after heart day, I went to Karidat to apply for housing assistance. I was in deep arrears on my housing rent and the Lino Olopai Park by the CK beach was not about to add a homeless resident plunk his leased Toyota on its premises. It did not materialize that way though he almost executed an affidavit for the housing program saying that he knew of my situation enough that I could be homeless if my income-generating thrust does not produce results. My landlord was into his third "eviction" letter if I did not show concretely how I was to handle my arrears.

I went over to Karidat because a friend at Red Cross informed me that I might check them out for my expressed needs. I heard

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



that they offered a one-month emergency assistance grant after Typhoon Soudelor, but the program ended in January. The office did have a long-term offer of 10 months for the qualified homeless, which I applied to though not yet "homeless" and still hanging on to a TH Finasisu apartment.

The deadline to submit the housing assistance was the 7th of March, and having gone around offices that turned out to be closed on Georgie's day, I had sufficient time to return home and finish the application with time left to write a column.

And read. I do not normally read. Strange words coming from a school teacher but I taught oral English and the phonetic nature of the language required that folks learned to be familiar with sounds before they decode letters and numbers. Though labeled as an introvert in college, I did not hesitate to stand in front of an audience to speak, not only because English as a language be spoken, but also since I earned my way through college as a part-time radio DJ, and attended a seminary to be a pulpit preacher.

The preaching part was brief; it provided not much practice at oration. But I had years of doing community level pedagogy in many parts of the world where verbal skill was required, so I had my share of gabfests.

I was a quiet young lad, leaving loquacity to friends. But there was San Miguel beer to loosen the tongue. Tsingtao, the brew that flows out of Shandong Province in China, is not available in the local market so I grab a 320mL bottle of Saint Michael's, a necessity, not a luxury, and for a more refined taste, Asahi and Heinekin lead the pack. I do miss the 780mL bottles of China beer at third the price of the smaller bottles on island but we won't trade tropical weather for the brew!

In the absence of warm arms, the beer sufficed. We are no longer too mindful of the shape of San Miguel, as opposed to the old Coca-Cola slim waist. Oops. We're on beer. It is Mickey's green that got us last month but we now shepherd first graders in elementary school. We shifted into water; non-mineral ones will do! Water, anyone?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Nai Kara' I Kahan Gobietnu

Todu gobietnu ni pinalo'pu' dañkulu na dibin program-an man-ritirau (pension) siempre kada ratu matompu'. I gobietnun iya Marianas ha didibi i "retirement fund" ennu i \$789 milyon pesus pot tiha apase obligasioña para empleau desde 1982.

I apas man-ritirau mana e'esuette gi papa' otden kotten federat ni mafanana'an "settlement fund". Machuchule' apas dididi' ginen casino yan otu kalaguag siha ya ma-apsen patten tiau. Inipos na chinatsaga i manadan dibi. Kuandu menos gi nesesiadat mayotmiente!

Na dañá \$789 milyon na dibin kontra programan manritirau yan presente na dibi \$510 milyon pesus sa' mamatmos Marianas gi halom mas ke \$1.3 milyon pesus na dibi. Haf' 'ste na defektu na pinadesen taduñg chigu' ni sumen puti lau ti siña un' estotba.

Maseha suspichosu-yu', ilegña i amiguhu Magoo na debi bai' fan añogogu gi tropan "solutions driven". Ai a'gun? Dios mihu!

Gima' Familia: 'Nai paire kinalamten ekonomia gi mediu ochenta siha na sakan, megai numa'e animu gi mahatsan primet guma' familia. Mauleg i appottunadat cho'chu' yan sueddu guihe na tiempu.

Pa'gu na biahe inipos matai ekonomia, apenas cho'chu', tat patte gi koyenturan aduana (nuebu na tax) kalalamten finu. Todu manchichichik haf' na redan antigu na karetan guaka.

Este na chinatsaga sumen makat gi nuebu siha na tinituhon familia. U fattu bo'bu' binibun publiku pot este yan otu siha te'ug na problema ni humohogse familia.

Huntan lexisleche: Guaha 'nai aksidente hu baba i television (Channel 23) pot huntan lehislatu. Ensegidas hu tulaika pot no bai' tinatme chetnot amku' (dementia) hamalefa. Guiya 'ste i makat un' hassu nigap na ha'ane lau libianu 30 años antes.

I dibati sessu apenas intellihente na presentasion ideu. Haf' na kareta ni sige lo'lu' sa' kumeke hokog gaselinaña. Puru entut siha na esplikasion. I bumatbaruye fuminu' Eñglis ha lachai umaka hila'ña. I eskaleran sustansian asunto siha mampos natah. Hu punu' i television.

Gi sanhilu' na guma, hu e'ekuñog un' senadot Luta todú finalulon ni baban finu' Chamoruña. Mas dimalas 'nai ha estira guatu gi finu' Eñglis. Dios mihu na champuladu para mirendan talo'ane. Namase' i prohímu!

Relasion yan Amesta: Hu chage mana' pañot to'lañg dañkulu sin masedi muñgañgas maseha pot para u inos halom gi guetgueruh. Hu suñgun pot pinadesin popble yan patgon matai. I pairastroghu-yu' muna' komprende-yu' haf' estau patgon matai. Ha padesi lokue' i amku' este 'nai matai si nanaña 'nai trabiha

tres años idatña.

Dispues adumididi' 'nai fumitme gi hinasoghu finu' i Saina pot tratamientu gi otu yan inadahe yan ayudu gi man-namase'. 'Nai dichuyu' tautau 'nai mas umeyagyu' haf' sustansian amesta gi otu 'sino prohímu-mu. I puntu pot mauleg relasion yan otu kilisyanu.

Ridondú i tanu'. Todu kumilulog huyuñg siempre u birague' tatte. Ayu i un' tailayiye libianu nina'e hau ayuduña 'nai gi utimu besis guiya i mas mauleg na amigumu.

Estague' siha finana' guen mañainata pot esta manginen ennu na katsada. Ayu mina' achog hechuran konbetsasion repara sa' finu' na palabra ma-impapatta gi maseha haye na kilisyanu. I finaposhu 'nai echuyu' tautau fumanu'eyu' na parehuyu' yan otu prohímu.

Hombre, 'an tumohge hau apaga' pot apaga' yan maseha haye, repara sa' parehu yan na plaset 'nai tumohge hamyu. Morat? Parehu hamyu tautau! Muñga mama' prinsipen karisu pat prinsesan susomyan!

Dinaña Sentada: Dinaña' tautau gi maseha manu na nasyon gaige gi finatinas sentada gi selebrasion ha'anen gupot, nobena, finagpu' lisayu 'sino regulat na senan familia.

Gi halom natibu, namagof na dinaña deste preparasion difirientes klasen putahe, mahatsan tento' yan areglun lamasa yan siya siha.

Gaige gi maprepara na neñkanu' i dinaña' tautau-ta. I intensión i para tadaña'e familia gi okasion selebrasion niha mismu kau gupot nobena pat primet komuñon.

Ti kustumbren tanu' i manbalutan neñkanu'. I Tagalu ennu gai kustumbre. Ahe' ti Chamorro yan Karolinas. I puntu na makombida hau, gi finu' mañainata, "Para tafan hita mañena".

Adimas, dinanche yangin mata'chuñg hau ya un' dañe i gai gipot gi fina' namagof na konbetsasion. Estague' patte na makombida hau pot mas inatuñgu' gi entalu' bisinu yan manatuñgu'. Ti makombida hau para un' fan balutan! Pot fabot tatiye haf' kustumbren i tanu'.

■ ■ ■

Direchu: Iya Marianas petmanente relasioña yan Unidos Estados De America. Gaige este gi halom inakonfotman Covenant lai federal 94-241. Taya' siña tumulaika este na lai fuera ke Congresson iya America.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ways to beautify Saipan

At the times when Mr. Felix Camacho was governor of Guam, they had the problem of young students vandalizing buildings, walls, installations, constructions, bus stops, etc. These illegal activities gained such a huge scale and caused irritations and extra expenditures to restore damaged and graffiti-painted objects. The governor had to take action and Organics Law came into being. This law would involve parents, students themselves, and teachers to fight back the violations and stimulate conceptually approved street paintings.

The laws created a positive attitude to those who want to express their visions on the walls, bridges, and pavements and so on. Schools would promote their best painters to graffiti competitions. At Dededo Village, in the presence of officials, specialists, friends, art lovers, the competitors were given time and painting space. Talented ones got a real chance to perform their best, earn a valuable prize, and get people and specialists recognition and perspectives to grow as professionals. Since then, Dededo Village got one more attraction for locals and visitors.

We like this kind of win-win solutions! The law has proved effective enough to have the wild form of problem dissipated in the long run. Youth's talents got realized and one of the villages got more attractive.

Here on Saipan, when passing the intersection by the San Vicente Church and the Guangdong Hardware store, one can see the nice fence drawing. Flowers are drawn artfully and capture the attention. High art remains high even in drawing everyday and everywhere things like flowers our islands are so rich of. Our youth can do more. For example, the long fence of the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Maseha guaha giya hita ti mañonfotme, unu gi direchun sudadanu i para u dueñon atmas pot proteksioña. Kontodu i suprimu na kotte ha onra este na direchon sudadanu. Taya' siña ta chogue fuera ke areglun lai pot bandan haye siña mabende paki (handgun), apas lisensia yan otu siha areglu.

Repara: Nanalau 'an man-e' salau i man-sabiun hegsu' I Deni' pot direchun Marianas gumubietnan maisague'. Paire! Lau na gi mismu sakudida na ti hita muna' kara' i kahan iya Marianas? Kau fitme patte este gi sisteman para ta gobietnan maisa hit?

I problema taigue gi federat. Gaige gi halom gima' ta mayotmiente i defektu. Mauleg sa' gaige talayan federat para u tagam yan husga disposision ni manlache kontra i publiku 'sino diktatot sisteman gobietno-ta. Magofyu' ni presentin federat pot kabales ha pupulan i tai nina' siña ginen che'chu' kabron yan miron grupon kriminat manma-elihe.

Pot ihemplu: Mana'e i kompanian segundu gobietnu \$400,000 para u fahan i MV Luta sin disposision apropiasion ginen lehislatu. Na ti mandatun konstitusion na todú fondun publiku debi u inaprueba ni lehislatu? Haye otu bisnis guine manana'e nu este na klasen ayudu? Pot fabot tatiye lai konstitusion. Dalai lala'et miyu gi propiu disposision taimanu ginagagau gi lai.

Chalegua hamyu 'an hilu' pisun lai 'nai mañgekuentos hamyu. Pa'gu 'an oriyen i lai, pues chage lumiliku' e i depattamentun koreksion giya Susupe 'nai man-mapepega i umisague lai.

I mandatun lai ni unu u soplu gi matatiyen haf' ginagagau yan kastigu para i umisague pisun areglu. Ginen areglun lai mina' guaguaha areglu gi entalu' todú gi halom komunidat-ta.

CUC building near Joeten Housing might be decorated with meaningful and bold graffiti.

Our leaders and street-art enthusiasts could work hand in hand and organize more competitive drawings of our buildings, walls, fences, and everything surrounding us and catch our attention. It might be our history and cultural heritage paintings expressed in specific graffiti techniques. Our best people's merits could be recognized this original way. Our best students, teachers, singers would get public respect as well. It might be temporary advertisements of goods and services and money shall come.

Why not see our leaders, poets, and scientists' best thoughts painted on objects surrounding us? Seeing them and reflecting upon them everyday and many times, we would sharpen our mind and blood, get inspired by them and serve others better. This way, we could interact more harmoniously toward better living and better serving each other.

When you pass by the abandoned houses near to Garapan Elementary School, You can see nonsense graffiti. They just offend our eyes! It would be much better to channel the youth graffiti efforts based on a wisely elaborated conception by architects and other specialists on improving the image of our islands.

If beautifying concepts are realized as common-sense designs, the future generation (now just going to kindergarten or elementary) would learn a lot from good graffiti. They would grow with much respect for the arts and oriented to being wise and tolerant people.

We call upon our student and the community to support Mayor Apatang's beautification efforts. Your everyday attention and care of those rows of flowers located at the intersections would improve Saipan's landscape even more. For our dear tourists, well-cared for flower beds would also give a nice impression.

Teddy Guaio
Aging Center

IRAN

From Page 10

He accuses the U.S. of indirectly thwarting some foreign trade deals. Tehran wants the Obama administration to help make Tehran's financial dealings with foreign companies and banks easier by allowing transactions involving dollars in certain circumstances.

Here's why that is key: U.S. dollars tend to be the currency of choice in financial transactions around the globe. Many businesses, particularly in the oil industry, rely on being able to freely convert local currencies to and from dollars. So the White House reportedly is considering easing financial rules to essentially allow Iran and its foreign trading partners to do business using dollars, provided those transactions don't occur inside the U.S. financial system.

That ease of money movement would be a huge financial boon to Iran and to its terrorist proxies around the world.

But that's controversial. Some congressional critics accuse the White House of reaching beyond the nuclear deal's terms to mollify the mullahs. Last week, Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida introduced a bill that would prevent Iran from gaining access to transactions in U.S. dollars outside the U.S. financial system. That would be a smart move, in part because Iran hasn't yet earned any favors from Washington.

The more ground Obama cedes to the mullahs, the weaker the argument for keeping the nuclear deal intact becomes. Why so?

The next president will have to decide what, if anything, to do about the Iran nuclear deal. A firm U.S. posture, rather than endless "sweeteners" to keep Tehran from walking away, has the best chance of keeping Iran's nuclear program in check.

Zoning Office posts record high in FY '15

The Zoning Office's enforcement section has increased its activity substantially from previous years, reaching a total number of 329 inspections, out of which 85 resulted in violation orders and stiff fines.

According to the newly released Zoning Board and Office's 2015 FY annual report, these included inspections of new constructions for required setbacks, parking, landscaping, height, driveways, and other zoning requirements. It also included monitoring of building and ground signs, public nuisances such as junk cars, as well as preventing the unlawful expansion of non-conforming uses.

According to Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro, enforcement has been boosted aggressively, due to the increase in unpermitted and illegal construction activities, as well as an increased number of reports of violations from the community. Sign violations were the most numerous, followed by unpermitted construction activities without proper setbacks, parking, or landscaping, followed by public nuisances such as junk cars,

trash materials, and hanging of clothes visible to main thoroughfares.

"Thanks to the efforts of our enforcement team headed by Mr. Yubert Alepuyo, our office was able to identify violations and make corrective actions as soon as possible," said Ogumoro. According to her, such actions included courtesy notices and guides to lead violators through application processes with the submission of required documents. "Last fis-

cal year showed an aggressive performance by our enforcement to implement the law and we are continuing efforts in issuing courtesy notices and educating the public for proper compliance."

However, the office still faces challenges from other developers who continue to refuse to comply. "In those cases, formal violation notices with up to \$1,000 per day fines are issued, after which time they pay," Ogumoro said.

moro said.

She commends Alepuyo and staff for the excellent outfield inspections done to ensure compliance with the law and encourages continued focus on the current enforcement guidelines.

Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco also commends Zoning's enforcement efforts and encourages continued open communication between the office and applicants for a better un-

derstanding of the law's requirements.

"The result pays off as we all can now see many improvements on signs, building designs, landscaping, and parking. The board is asking the general public to adhere to the requirements of the Zoning Law and support our island's growth towards orderly and aesthetic developments" Blanco said.

The Zoning Office continues to be aggressive on

its enforcement activities and asks the public to comply with the Zoning Law accordingly. The office also reminds the community to communicate with the office at 234-9661 or visit the office on the 2nd floor of Joeten Dandan Commercial Building for any questions or concerns they may have on land uses. Any violation of the law may result in fines from \$100 up to \$1,000 per violation per day. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Speech & Debate Knights of Mount Carmel School pose for a group photo with their teacher-coaches Zita Sablan and Filmah Buenaflor.

Army Cadet Command visits Saipan JROTC

Coming all the way from Fort Knox, Kentucky, CSM Gabriel S. Arnold and CSM Timothy Marble, accompanied by MSG Farnell and SFC Techur from UOG SROTC, paid a visit to the island of Saipan.

They arrived last April 6 and were welcomed by the Manta Ray Battalion representatives along with their instructor, (R) CSM Richard Basa. In preparation of their arrival, the Manta Ray Battalion companies made colorful banners to welcome them, they thanked the cadets for the warm welcome. The following day, they went to Saipan Southern High School, where they were briefed about the JROTC program of the Manta Ray Battalion and other battalions in the CNMI. Aside from that, they were also given a brief introduction of the island and historical facts. After the briefing, they joined the instructors and about 60 cadets for a hearty lunch. They loved it! Before they left, CSM Gabriel S. Arnold talked to the cadets about pursuing all the possible opportunities available to them. After the speech, they took a photo with the Manta Ray Battalion cadets and their instructors, (R) CSM Richard Basa, and (R) SGM Joaquin Kyoshi. **(PR)**

MCS Speech & Debate Knights rock Regionals

Mount Carmel School's congratulates her Speech & Debate Knights, who fared very well at the regional competitions of the Primary Grade Forensics Competition (PGFC) and the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA):

PGFC (K-2)

■ Emmanuel Pontiveros
1st Place Impromptu
2nd Place Readers Forum

■ Mikaehla Mendoza
2nd Place Impromptu

PGFC (3-5)

■ Brissa Hunter
2nd Place Readers Forum

■ Kyla Cabrera
3rd Place
Duo (with Kina Dela Cruz)
3rd Place Impromptu

■ Kina Dela Cruz
3rd Place
Duo (with Kyla Cabrera)
3rd Place Humorous

NSDA

■ Thomas Manglona II
1st Place LD Debate
1st Place US Extemp
2nd Place Impromptu

■ Cathryn Javier
2nd Place LD Debate
2nd Place Commentary

■ Reica Jucel Ramirez
3rd Place Foreign Extemp
5th Place Original Oratory

■ Jeff Matthew Melchor
3rd Place Duo (with Jonelle Toskas)
Finalist, Imp

■ Monica Aira Usi
4th Place Poetry Reading
Finalist, Original Oratory

■ Jonelle Toskas

1st Place
Chamorro Prose Reading
3rd Place
Duo (with Jeff Melchor)

■ Nathaniel Snodgrass
3rd Place US Extemp
4th Place Commentary

■ Joshua Santos
4th Place US Extemp
5th Place Commentary

■ Joanie Paraiso
5th Place Dramatic Interp

■ Angelica Diaz
Finalist, Storytelling

■ Participants

Erika Cunanan
Gary Camacho

Much thanks also to their primary coaches/coordinators, Zita Sablan, Filmah Buenaflor, and Tobed Smith. Lastly, much thanks also to the following for helping judge the competitions: Kevin Bautista; Sheila Perez; Jojo Santos; Vir Abueme; Rosiky Camacho, Joanne Paraiso, Luz Baldazo; Carlo Diaz; Judy Ann Ramirez; John Hernandez; Tina Snodgrass; John Del Rosario; Karen Ann Alla; Leila Boyer; Menellia Salinas; and Lynn Santos. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Alter City Group facility assistant Andrew Hofschneider, project supervisor Nikonia Quichocho, and Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicholas pose for a photo after the company's recent cleanup efforts on the island.

Alter City helps beautify Tinian community

Every investor has the heart and first hand option to lend a helping hand in the community. On early March, the Alter City Group went on a mission to help the community of Tinian. ACG crews alternated their scheduled clearances at the proposed development and pounced on community projects.

Taking a temporary time off the Plumeria Casino and Golf Resort site, a \$1.2-billion investment at the southwestern part of Tinian, employees equipped with brush cutters, trimmers, truck, and trailer, tackled fallen trees and debris from the last typhoon.

It was a sight to contemplate at the former St. Joseph School, as well as, the ponding basin between the Tinian Public Library and the San Jose Catholic Church thoroughly cleared

to the ground.

Alter City Group employees, who are all local hires, could be seen for the last week furiously working and cleaning up the village of San Jose. What's far more valuable than a billion dollar investment is a company that enjoys lending a helping hand. A harmonious relationship with the people of Tinian from the heart at the start would assure us that ACG is truly for Tinian.

In total gratitude and a wholehearted appreciation, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, in the behalf of the Tinian Leadership and the community, extended a huge thanks and *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* to ACG officials for their contribution and staff for the tremendous effort and enormous hard work to beautify Tinian. **(PR)**

MHS STEM team tops UOG Green Dream Home tilt

Marianas High School STEM participants and students of Intro to Careers won first place in the University of Guam's Green Dream Home Competition held last Monday at Lotte Hotel Guam.

The group bested 22 teams from private and public schools on Guam.

"We feel shocked yet good bringing the trophy home. We're relieved that the competition is over. We were so nervous the entire day," said the winning team. "We can't wait to join the GDH competition and STEM Fair again next year. It was a great experience!"

The team will now present to audience and attendants of the 2016 Island Sustainability Conference today, Wednesday.

Two years ago Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan attended the UOG Sustainability Conference in Guam where she saw impressive model homes by students competing in the Green Dream Home Competition.

The CNMI was invited to compete the following year. It was great



From left, Dr. Austin Ashton from University of Guam; Jeaniffer Cubangbang, Marianas High School teacher; MHS students Anjenette Jewel Cubangbang, Candy Quijano, Jenalien Jonathan, Elissa Iglecias, and Alosia Kaipat; and UOG CIS event coordinator Phil Cruz pose for a group photo after the MHS STEM team finished first in the University of Guam's Green Dream Home Competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

news for Sablan who had a STEM initiative to kick up STEM (Science, Mathematics, Engineering & Math) in the CNMI to another level.

Former PSS central program coordinators Annette Pladevega (Science) and Jeaniffer Cubangbang (IT) did projects with students from Saipan Southern High, Tinian Jr. Sr. High, & Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High, and Grace Christian Academy.

It went well with students that they decided to compete school-wide and island-wide this 2016. All CNMI schools were invited to compete with their winning school's models in the CNMI Island-wide STEM Fair held last March 12.

With the assistance of judging from contractors and engineers from HBR International Inc. using UOG's green dream home competition judging rubrics Marianas High School and Kagman High School came up on top, thanks to teachers Cubangbang and Pladevega who are now classroom teachers to the winning school teams. (PR)

WIA sees first hand progress made by NMTI students

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute last Friday received an exciting visit from the Workforce Investment Agency, a division of the CNMI Department of Labor.

Francis Torres, lead case manager for WIA, stopped by to see the progress being made by students at the Lower Base campus and to see how WIA can help students transition toward their desired careers. The meeting which discussed WIA's intention of covering for a portion of the student learning experience while at their respective assigned job sites as they work on receiving their respective training certificates.

Under the leadership of Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, WIA is looking at taking a proactive approach toward the CNMI's workforce development needs, according to Agnes McPhetres, NMTI chief executive officer. McPhetres said, "WIA's participation in our student development is highly encouraging, especially in the 'hands-on' portion of our courses. As our students currently don't receive financial aid from sources such as the CNMI Scholarship Office, our students are placed at a great disadvantage when compared to others. WIA's assistance empowers our students as the demand

for students in the technical trades is at its highest due to the current CW predicament we are facing."

Courses such as Culinary Arts, Automotive Technology, Construction, and Hotel and Restaurant Operations

offered at NMTI run year round with major emphasis in "On the Job Training (OJT) opportunities."

The total amount of hours a student would have to complete depends on the career choice they make. The Hotel and Restaurant Operations program requires students to undertake a rigorous 350 hours course load, which is comprised of 110 hours of in-class sessions and 240 hours of OJT, according to NMTI sources. When asked for comment, Victor Mesta,

director of Student Development and HR manager mentioned, "Students get a well-rounded education as the OJT is a major function of interest for CNMI employers. Students are supervised by people trained in the field, thus giving employers the opportunity to see their skills develop along the way. Wouldn't you as an employer want to see what you're paying for prior to buying it?"

For information on signing up for courses, CNMI residents are encouraged to call (670) 235-6684 or visit their website online at www.nmtic-nmi.com. (PR)



Workforce Investment Agency lead case manager Francis Torres visited the Northern Marianas Trades Institute last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More companies sign on as major sponsors of Green Gala

Showing their support for conserving the islands' natural resources, several businesses recently made donations ranging between \$1,000 and \$3,000 to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

These donations were made as part of MINA's annual fundraising event, the Green Gala, which will be held on May 27. Hofschneider Engineering, LLC now joins Chong's Corporation and The Shack as some of this year's Major Sponsors.

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has worked to implement various conservation projects, includ-

ing the Plastic Bag Challenge, the Schools for Environmental Conservation workshops, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Program, the Adopt-A-Bin Project, and Managaha Pride Campaign.

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner, and a variety of beverages, the

Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening to celebrate over ten years of working with island communities for conservation.

As the last Green Gala was sold out, organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early.

Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer Board members.

To become a sponsor of the Green Gala, please contact Brooke Nevitt at 233-REEF (7333), or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. (PR)

Joint Region Marianas honors Guam veterans

SANTA RITA, Guam—No matter what clime or place, the playing of "Taps" at military funeral honors stirs emotions of honor, tradition, sadness and loss. Joint Region Marianas (JRM) Sailors and airmen do more to support veterans and their families of Guam by performing Funeral Honor Details for service members and retirees who are interred on island. The JRM funeral honors team recently honored the family of Petty Officer 2nd Class William Sablan Cruz, for a funeral held at the Guam Veteran's Cemetery, April 1.

Typically, there's an average of three to four services per month, but according to Master at Arms 2nd Class Kevin Madel, leading petty officer of the JRM funeral honors detail, there might be as many as 10 per month. For him the number of ceremonies and hours devoted to performing doesn't even compare to the honor provided to the veteran and his or her family.

"There's definitely a pride factor in providing this honor," said Madel, who has performed in the detail for two years and two months. "Presenting the flag to a widow or family member can be very difficult emotionally. Mostly, it's just rewarding to be able to render these final honors."

The team supported nine funerals so far in 2016, and 44 in 2015 (21

retiree and 23 non-retired funerals) amounting to 132 hours of community service, not including rehearsals. The team also supported a retiree funeral amidst austere conditions in Saipan soon after Typhoon Soudebor devastated the island in early August 2015. Funerals for retirees are more involved and require more team members. The JRM team provides a rifle detail, pallbearers, flag service and "Taps." According to Madel, it requires about 90 minutes of rehearsal prior to the funeral, but the funeral itself varies in length. Madel explained that the decision to join the team was initially to provide some community service, but then he "got engulfed in it."

"The Funeral Honors Detail team is looking for more volunteers to serve the community, but for us it isn't just about serving the community," said Chief Navy Career Counselor (SW/AW) Michael Tate, assigned to headquarters, U.S. Naval Base Guam, and detail organizer. "This prestigious opportunity also represents your service branch. We would like to get all military branches involved in becoming volunteers and members of our team."

Volunteers for the JRM Funeral Honors Detail can contact NCC Michael J. Tate, michael.tate@fe.navy.mil or call (671) 339-2017 (work) or (671) 483-3773 (cell). (PR)

Business

Puerto Rico church strips teachers of pension amid crisis

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—After 36 years teaching English at a Roman Catholic school near Puerto Rico's capital, Norma Cardoza planned to retire with a modest pension she trusted she would get from the Archdiocese of San Juan.

Her faith was misplaced.

Archdiocese officials in recent weeks informed Cardoza and several hundred other current and retired teachers that their pensions will be eliminated because payouts exceeded contributions. Enrollment at Catholic schools in Puerto Rico has plunged with so many families leaving the island for the U.S. mainland amid the island's economic crunch.

It has been a devastating blow to Catholic school teachers who had counted on those pensions to supplement the Social Security checks they'll be getting.

The church noted in the letter that its contract with employees allows it to terminate the pension plan at any moment and said the remaining



In this April 6, 2016 photo, former Catholic school director and teacher Isabel Casanas talks about losing her pension, in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. T

money would be distributed among retired teachers. Officials signed off with, "May God bless you all."

"I'm 62 years old. Do you think I can come up with a pension plan in four years? There's no way," said Cardoza, who had expected to get \$930 a month from the church upon a retirement that had been scheduled for May but she has now postponed.

"That's why I find it so horrendous."

As Puerto Rico's government teeters on the brink of insolvency, the grim fate of this group of current and former teachers could signal more pain to come for other workers expecting pensions—not only at private workplaces like the church, but also in the island's troubled public sector.

Japan prepares for release of tritium from Fukushima plant

TOKYO (AP)—To dump or not to dump a little-discussed substance is the question brewing in Japan as it grapples with the aftermath of the nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima five years ago. The substance is tritium.

The radioactive material is technically near-impossible to remove from the huge quantities of water used to cool melted-down reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which was wrecked by the massive tsunami in northeastern Japan in March 2011.

The water is still accumulating: 300 tons are still needed a day to keep the reactors chilled. Some is leak-

ing into the ocean.

Huge tanks lined up around the plant, at last count 1,000 of them, each hold hundreds of tons of water that have been cleansed of radioactive cesium and strontium but not of tritium.

Ridding water of tritium has been carried out in laboratories. But it's an effort that would be extremely costly at the scale required for the Fukushima plant, which sits on the Pacific coast. Many scientists argue it isn't worth it and say the risks of dumping the tritium-laced water into the sea are minimal.

Their calls to simply release the water into the Pacific Ocean are alarming many in

Japan and elsewhere.

Rosa Yang, a nuclear expert at the Electric Power Research Institute, based in Palo Alto, California, who advises Japan on decommissioning reactors, believes the public angst is uncalled for. She says a Japanese government official should simply get up in public and drink water from one of the tanks to convince people it's safe.

But the line between safe and unsafe radiation is murky, and children are more susceptible to radiation-linked illness. Tritium goes directly into soft tissues and organs of the human body, potentially increasing the risks of cancer and other sicknesses.

Obama, Fed chair Yellen discuss outlook for economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the U.S. economy improving, President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen discussed the outlook for near and long-term economic growth during a Monday afternoon meeting in the Oval Office, the White House said.

Obama and Yellen also talked about the state of the labor market, inequality and potential risks to the economy, both in the U.S. and globally. They also reviewed steps taken during the Obama administration to strengthen the financial system and protect consumers, the White House said of the private meeting.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said both Obama and Yellen are focused on ways to expand economic opportunities for the U.S. middle class. Earnest called the meeting an opportunity for the two to "trade notes" while emphasizing that Yellen makes decisions about monetary policy independently.

Yellen has recently noted that the U.S. job market and housing recovery have lifted the economy close to full health despite the risks that remain, including a global economic slump.

The president occasionally meets with the Fed chair to discuss the state of the econo-

my. The last such meeting was in November 2014.

"The president has been pleased with the way that she has fulfilled what is a critically important job," Earnest said. He added that Obama has "the upmost respect for the independent nature of her role."

Yellen has also met with Obama on two occasions to discuss the progress being made in implementing the sweeping overhaul of banking regulations that Congress passed following the 2008 financial crisis. Those meetings, which included other federal bank regulators, occurred on March 7 of this year and on Oct. 6, 2014.

Nation

With NY on their minds, Democrats trade fresh attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—Tensions frayed in both parties Monday as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump tried to stave off the prospect of a lengthy battle to the nomination with big victories in New York.

While Clinton escalated her attacks against rival Bernie Sanders, Republican leader Donald Trump complained about a "rigged" nomination process, prompting a fierce defense from party leaders. Both candidates hope sizable delegate gains in next week's New York primary create a sense of inevitability around their candidacies.

Campaigning in southern California, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz described Trump's attacks on the Republican nomination process as "whining."

"Donald has been yelling and screaming. A lot of whining. I'm sure some cursing. And some late-night fevered tweeting," Cruz told hundreds of supporters gathered

in Irvine, Calif.

He noted Trump's complaints follow his struggles in recent primary contests in Utah, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Colorado.

Trump has seized upon his delegate woes in recent days as evidence that "the fix" was in. He angrily denounced the allocation of Colorado delegates to Cruz as "dirty and disgusting" during a Monday night rally in Albany, New York.

Trump compared his loss there to situation in Louisiana, where he won the primary but lost the delegate count to Cruz, "who got his ass kicked." Trump said a similar game was playing out on the Democratic side, where "Bernie Sanders wins and wins and wins" but yet "can't win the race."

"The system is rigged, folks," said Trump, who spoke to more than 10,000 people in an Albany arena during a rally that was interrupted several

times by protesters.

Trump's accusations come as he seeks to outmaneuver Cruz in local state gatherings where the delegates who will attend the summer convention are being chosen. In state after state, Cruz's campaign has implemented a more strategic approach to picking up delegates, which, despite Trump's current lead, are essential if he wants to reach the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination.

The complaints call into question the integrity of the voting process at a time when the party could be working to unify behind its front-runner. In an interview with conservative radio host Mike Gallagher, Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, pushed back against Trump's claims, saying the convention system used in Colorado is "not an affront to the people of Colorado. It just is what the rule is."

Planned Parenthood shooter admired Florida doctor's killer

DENVER (AP)—The man who acknowledges killing three people at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic idolized an abortion foe who killed a Florida doctor more than two decades earlier, court documents released Monday show.

Robert Dear told police he attacked the clinic in Colorado Springs because he was upset with the reproductive health organization for "the selling of baby parts," according to the court documents, which give the deepest look yet into his seething disdain for abortion providers. Dear also told investigators he put glue in the locks at an abortion clinic when he lived in

South Carolina, a common protest technique among activists trying to shut down such facilities.

The documents were unsealed Monday after The Associated Press and other news outlets petitioned the state's highest court for their release. Judge Gilbert Martinez initially refused to make them public, saying the media do not have a First Amendment right to access court documents, which prompted the monthslong court fight over records that are routinely released in criminal cases. They include Dear's arrest warrant and warrants to search Dear's pickup truck, computer, emails and tumbledown trail-

er in rural Hartsel, Colorado.

Dear, 57, is charged with 179 counts, including murder, attempted murder and assault, in the Nov. 27 attack. He held police at bay for more than five hours at the clinic, injuring nine others and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of people from surrounding businesses. As he was being put in a patrol car, Dear began yelling about the killing of babies and "no more baby parts," according to the court documents.

The dead included a police officer from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and two people who were accompanying friends to the clinic separately.



ACROSS THE NATION

Utah polygamy ban restored in loss for 'Sister Wives' family

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A federal appeals court restored Utah's ban on polygamy Monday, handing a defeat to the family from TV's "Sister Wives" and other polygamists who say the ruling could send plural families back into hiding out of fear of prosecution. Others cheered the decision that they say will help authorities prosecute people for crimes tied to the practice, such as underage marriage and sexual assault. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a 2013 ruling that struck down key

parts of Utah's law against bigamy, or holding multiple marriage licenses. U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups had found the state violated polygamists' right to privacy and religious freedom. The appeals court ruled that Waddoups should not have considered a lawsuit from Kody Brown and his four wives because they were never charged with a crime and there was little chance they would be.

Police: Man arrested after body parts found in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—Three body parts—including a foot—found in a home-

owner's recycling bin likely belong to a woman who was reported missing Saturday morning, Seattle police said Monday. Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole said at an evening news conference that an arrest had been made in the case and detectives believe the human remains are that of Ingrid Lyne, a 40-year-old mother of three who works as a nurse in Seattle. "All evidence leads in the direction of that missing woman," O'Toole said. Friends of Lyne said they last saw her Friday afternoon and that she had planned to go on a date to a Mariners baseball game Friday night with someone she met online.

Asia

North Korea resurrects Lincoln to criticize Obama

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has tried warnings of nuclear attack and racist diatribes to criticize U.S. President Barack Obama. Now it's turning to Abraham Lincoln.

North Korea's state media have constructed an imaginary letter from the 16th U.S. president that attacks Obama's "deception" over Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons. It is the latest response from the North to rising animosity with Washington following Pyongyang's nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year.

The letter, posted only in Korean on the DPRK Today

website, is likely aimed at a domestic audience. DPRK Today is a relatively little known outlet compared with the North's main Korean Central News Agency and the Rodong Sinmun newspaper, which outsiders regularly check to find news from the authoritarian country.

The letter is titled "Advice from Lincoln to Obama."

"Hey, Obama," it begins. "I know you have a lot on your mind these days ... I've decided to give you a little advice after seeing you lost in thought before my portrait during a recent Easter Prayer Breakfast."

In the letter, Lincoln derides Obama's Nobel Peace

Prize-winning push to build a nuclear-free world by questioning why the United States has not taken the initiative to scale back its nuclear arsenal first, even as it asks countries such as North Korea to scrap their atomic programs.

"If the United States, a country with the world's largest nuclear weapons stockpile, only pays lip service, like a parrot, and doesn't do anything actively, it will be a mockery to the entire world," the letter has Lincoln say.

Although the fake Lincoln criticizes Obama, the North doesn't portray the late president as a good leader.

Forget the drought, Thailand's national water fight is on

BANGKOK (AP)—Drought? What drought? Bring out the water guns!

Thailand may be going through its driest period in 20 years, but the country's military government wants visitors from around the globe to know that the biggest water fight in the world is still on.

So, get your buckets, hoses and other gear ready for the three-day nationwide street party that begins Wednesday to mark the Thai New Year.

"We can still use water for the new year festival. It's not that dry," said government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd. The government has instructed the Tourism Ministry to make sure foreign tourists don't misunderstand the severity of the

drought and cancel holiday plans out of concerns the water supply will be cut off, he said.

After all, there are millions of dollars at stake.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand expects this year's holiday to generate more than 15 billion baht (\$427 million) for the tourism sector and attract half a million visitors in a span of five days.

Songkran, as the festival is known, has the spirit of a soggy Mardi Gras and is a major tourist attraction. Revelers line the streets, or prowl the roads in pickup trucks, armed with water guns and plastic bowls, and douse anyone in sight. Some areas are closed to traffic for wet and wild street parties with loud music, booze and dancing.

Rare controversy has preceded this year's water fight, with environmentalists and other critics calling for festivities to be curtailed.

"Instead of mindlessly wasting water, New Year revelers should be mindful of the crushing drought," The Nation newspaper said in an editorial last week calling for "a dry Songkran" to show solidarity with the country's farmers.

Twenty-seven of Thailand's 77 provinces have been declared drought zones, with the lowest level of rainfall in more than two decades. Farmers have been ordered to curtail their water use and scale back planting. Tap-water rationing is in effect in some provinces.



ASIAN BRIEFS

PH diplomat to China: Don't turn shoal into island

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino diplomat is warning that any Chinese move to turn a disputed shoal, where the U.S. Navy has detected a suspected Chinese survey ship, into an island will escalate the disputes in the South China Sea and asked Washington to help convince Beijing not to take that "very provocative" step. Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Cuisia Jr. told a news conference in Manila on Tuesday that the U.S. Navy spotted the suspected survey ship in the Scarborough Shoal a few weeks ago and expressed concerns about its presence in the disputed area. Cuisia says he was involved in a U.S.-brokered deal for China and the Philippines to withdraw their ships simultaneously from Scarborough to avoid a potential clash during a 2012 standoff but Beijing reneged on that deal.

Police say 7 connected to India temple surrender after fire

PARAVOOR, India (AP)—Seven people who fled after a weekend fire killed at least 116 people at the southern Indian temple where they are board members have surrendered to police to face prosecution, police said Tuesday. Police officer Gupakumar said the seven were taken into custody late Monday after a two-day hunt by po-

lice. Police are investigating temple board members and associates of firework contractors for possible charges of attempted murder and culpable homicide, both punishable by life imprisonment, and illegally storing a cache of explosives. Besides the deaths in the early Sunday blaze at the Hindu Puttingal Devi temple complex in the village of Paravoor in Kerala state, more than 380 people were injured.

As British royals head to Indian wildlife park, rhino killed

GAUHATI, India (AP)—With the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge set to visit the world's largest one-horn rhino park in remote northeastern India, conservationists hope the British royals can help raise global alarms about how black-market demand for rhino horns and other animal parts is fueling illegal poaching and pushing species to the brink. But just days before their Tuesday arrival, park officials said yet another rhino had been poached, bringing the total number of rhinos killed in Kaziranga National Park this year to six. Poachers shot the rhinoceros and, while it was still alive, sawed off its horn before fleeing before dawn Sunday, wildlife official Subasis Das said. Once the dying animal was discovered, park officials rushed to try to save it but were unsuccessful, he said.

World

Paris-Brussels attacks network is a 'supercell' of extremism

PARIS (AP)—The number of people linked to the Islamic State network that attacked Paris and Brussels reaches easily into the dozens, with a series of new arrests over the weekend that confirmed the cell's toxic reach and ability to move around unnoticed in Europe's criminal underworld.

From Belgium's Molenbeek to Sweden's Malmo, new names are added nearly daily to the list of hardened attackers, hangers-on, and tacit supporters of the cell that killed 130 people in Paris and 32 in Brussels.

A computer abandoned by one of the Brussels suicide bombers in a trash can contained not only his will, but is beginning to give up other information as well, including an audio file indicating the cell was getting its orders directly from a French-speaking extremist in Syria, according to a police official with knowledge of the investigation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the investigation.

Ten men are known to be directly involved in the



Police investigate an area where terror suspect Mohamed Abrini was arrested earlier today, in Brussels on Friday April 8, 2016.

Nov. 13 attacks in Paris; others with key logistical roles then—including the bomber, a logistics handler, and a hide-out scout—went on to plot the attack March 22 in Brussels. But unlike Paris, at least two people who survived the attack have been taken into custody alive, including Mohamed Abrini, the Molenbeek native who walked away from the Brussels international airport after his explosives failed to detonate.

But investigators fear it may not be enough to stave off another attack. Abdelhamid Abaaoud, another Molenbeek native whose charisma made him a natural draw to many

in the Brussels neighborhood after he joined IS extremists in Syria, said before his death that he returned to Europe among a group of 90 fighters from Europe and the Mideast, according to testimony from a woman who tipped police to his location.

Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer who is now with the Soufan Group security consultancy, described the Brussels-Paris network as a "supercell."

"The hope was that they had died out in the Paris attacks, and obviously that's not true," Skinner said in an earlier interview with The Associated Press.

With UN envoy in Damascus, IS takes Syrian town from rebels

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Islamic State militants recaptured a vital border crossing in northern Syria and shot down a government warplane in the country's west Monday as the U.N.'s special envoy urged the warring parties to respect a fragile cease-fire ahead of peace talks set to resume in Geneva this week.

U.N. Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura's plea came amid stepped up fighting around the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, and elsewhere in the country's northern and western provinces.

He spoke after meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem in Damascus in preparation for the talks, set to begin Wednesday in Geneva be-

tween the government and an umbrella opposition coalition backed by the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and other Western powers.

De Mistura said he emphasized the importance "of protecting and maintaining and supporting the cessation of hostilities," describing it as fragile and stressing that all sides "need to make sure that it continues to be sustained."

The U.N. envoy said the talks would focus on a political transition for Syria, where the civil war, now in its sixth year, has killed 250,000 people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million people. About 4 million people have fled the country.

"We will be focusing in particular on political tran-

sition, on governance and constitutional principles," de Mistura said. "We hope and plan to make them constructive ... and concrete."

Al-Moallem called for a dialogue "without preconditions," a reference to opposition demands that President Bashar Assad step down and be excluded from any transitional government. He said the government delegation would arrive Friday, two days after parliamentary elections are to be held in Syria. The vote—expected to be a rubber stamp of Assad loyalists—will only take place in government-controlled areas as the Damascus authorities are unable to organize any balloting in territory under rebel or Islamic State control.

Russia starts S-300 missile systems deliveries to Iran

MOSCOW (AP)—A senior Russian official says Moscow has started delivering S-300 air defense missile systems to Iran.

Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who spoke on Monday on Ekho Moskv radio, wouldn't say how many systems have been de-

livered or provide any other specifics.

In 2010, Russia froze a deal to supply the advanced long-range missile systems to Iran, linking the decision to U.N. sanctions. President Vladimir Putin lifted the suspension last year following Iran's deal with six world powers that

curbed its nuclear program in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

Rogozin said Iran will now drop its lawsuit at a court in Geneva seeking damages for the suspension of the original deal.

The S-300 deal has long worried the U.S. and Israel, which see it as destabilizing.

Focus

BARTLETT, Tenn. (AP) — Jackie Hughes longs to grieve over her sister's death in simple ways: visit her grave, lay out flowers, and pour a can of Bud Light—her sister's favorite—on the spot. But three years after Tawana Hillard's death, Hughes hasn't been able to spill a drop.

Hillard is missing. Since her graveside service at Galilee Memorial Gardens near Memphis in 2012, her body has been lost, along with hundreds of others whose remains were entrusted to the cemetery.

"I want to be able to walk in, to put flowers down, to just kneel and talk with her, whatever," Hughes says. Instead she leafs through photo albums at home, smiling as she remembers Saturday mornings spent talking with her sister about their love of blues music.

Two years ago, state officials closed Galilee. Owner Jemar Lambert was accused of misplacing hundreds of bodies, burying multiple cadavers in the same grave, and crushing caskets to fit them into single plots. Lambert received 10 years' probation in a plea deal. He left behind disorganized records, an investigation that continues today, and families who don't know where their loved ones are buried.

Hughes says Lambert told her family that several burials were scheduled the day of her sister's ceremony, so he would put Hillard in her grave later. Other families say Lambert told them the same story. Hughes is among hundreds now suing Galilee and the funeral homes that sent bodies there. She says she would use any damages awarded to find her sister and relocate her body to another cemetery.

"How much longer do we have to wait?" Hughes says. "I'm still in limbo."

What happened at Galilee is not all that rare. From Washington, D.C., to Chicago and elsewhere, lawsuits have been filed and charges pursued over mismanaged cemeteries, with accusations of unmarked graves, burial urns unearthed and dumped, plots resold, and vaults broken to make room for more remains.

Critics and families want more rigorous oversight nationwide, from small, family-run operations like Galilee to well-known national sites such as Arlington National Cemetery.

The federal government leaves cemetery regulation largely to states, which vary dramatically in approach, according to an Associated Press analysis of statutes, enforcement and lawsuits. Most states regulate cemeteries that are run as businesses, such as Galilee, but not religious, municipal or family cemeteries. State laws, however, are largely limited to licensing, establishing funeral director boards, developing a complaint process and providing financial protections for consumers who buy plots.

Many laws say officials reserve the



In this Monday, May 25, 2015 photo, Kendrick Cloyd, 8, holds a rose as he looks for the graves of his uncle and his sister at the Galilee Memorial Gardens cemetery in Memphis, Tenn. The cemetery was temporarily opened to visitors on Memorial Day. It was closed in 2014 after owner Jemar Lambert was accused of misplacing hundreds of bodies, burying multiple cadavers in the same grave, and crushing caskets to fit them into single plots.

2 years after cemetery shutdown, families still seek answers

right to inspect cemeteries, but that occurs only when regulators act on complaints. Few states - California is one, Florida another - require annual on-site inspections.

"Cemetery regulation is almost uniformly awful, where it exists at all," says Joshua Slocum, director of the nonprofit Funeral Consumers Alliance, which has pushed for more federal regulation.

A lack of oversight appears to have led to the malfeasance at Galilee, families and attorneys suing the cemetery say.

Tennessee law requires records inspections every two years at cemeteries, but not annual inspections of grounds. Aside from revoking or suspending a license, performing random or quarterly inspections, and issuing fines up to about \$1,000, Tennessee has little power to punish cemetery owners.

In 2010, Jemar Lambert took over the tree-lined Galilee cemetery from his father, whose grave sits unperturbed near the entrance. It catered to working- and middle-class families, most of whom are black. But record-keeping became a problem, according to investigators' reports.

Galilee's registration certificate expired in December 2010. The state didn't renew it after auditors discovered Lambert's disorganized records. The state started investigating, but Lambert kept burying bodies at Galilee for three years as he appealed for a license renewal.

By 2013, investigators had accused

Lambert of burying up to 200 bodies in land adjacent to Galilee that he didn't own. In 2014, he faced more charges. Relatives of three people buried at Galilee complained to him that they couldn't find the graves. Lambert and two funeral directors searched records, and disinterred and opened caskets - finding some that were crushed and stacked in single gravesites. They never found the bodies. The funeral directors informed the state. Investigators charged Lambert with abuse of a corpse and theft, and took over management of the cemetery.

In March 2015, Lambert accepted a plea deal. To Hughes, his punishment isn't enough. "Ten years' probation?" she says. "Well, hell. Go on

fixin' to do what you was doin', because you're not going to get no time behind it."

Investigators have reviewed Galilee's slipshod paper records against the plots and inspected the adjacent land. Experts jabbed a 10-foot pole into the ground in front of grave markers—if it didn't go down as far as it should, they'd probably find another set of stacked coffins. Burial areas have been tightened to fit more bodies, some graves are marked occupied but appear empty, and many are too shallow, according to court records.

Through his lawyer, Lambert declined an interview. Attorney William J. Haynes III says in a statement that problems at Galilee existed be-



In this Monday, May 25, 2015 photo, people visit the Galilee Memorial Gardens cemetery in Memphis, Tenn. The cemetery was temporarily opened to visitors on Memorial Day.

fore Lambert was born.

"Many of the allegations surrounding Jemar's tenure at Galilee do not take these facts into account. That is highly unfair to Jemar and his family, who have cooperated with the Galilee receivership to the best of their ability," the statement says.

State Sen. Mark Norris, who represents the Memphis suburb Bartlett, home to Galilee, says the state needs to look further into what happened and says officials could consider reviewing cemetery records more frequently.

"Perhaps at the beginning of the next General Assembly we'll be able to make some changes that will give people comfort," he says. "It may be cold comfort and it's not going to be enough to really address the suffering of these particular families, but maybe ... because of this terrible experience they've had, others may not experience the same fate."

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance declined to provide an interview with Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak about Galilee and cemetery oversight. Instead, in an email, spokesman Kevin Walters placed blame on Lambert, accusing him of falsifying records to deceive auditors and customers.

"We empathize with the people who have been grievously affected by Mr. Lambert's reckless and criminal behavior," Walters wrote. "Today, it is easy for anyone to second guess."

Changes in oversight would be unfair to cemeteries "attempting to operate their businesses honorably," Walters wrote.

Many of those affected by Galilee think the state hasn't done enough. Wanda Chambers, whose mother and other relatives are buried there, filed a complaint in 2013 with the state, more than two years after Galilee's license expired. She says Lambert was still burying people and Galilee was poorly maintained. She's not satisfied with the state's response.

"They should have been able to move a little faster and do a better job to open the cemetery back up to let us go back in," Chambers says.

The state says no decision regarding Galilee's future will be made until investigators determine how many grave spaces are occupied.

Today at Galilee, friends and family can rarely visit loved ones. Last Memorial Day, the state reopened Galilee for a few hours—the only time the gates have opened to the public since February 2014.

Visitors navigated uneven grounds, broken headstones and trash. They tiptoed among ragged plots, searching for those they had lost once, and then again. A pastor stood on top of old graves and prayed. A man played "Amazing Grace" on his saxophone. One woman stepped in a hole and fell.

Hughes again searched for her sister's gravesite. She cried, holding flowers and balloons.

"I can't find my sister," she screamed.

Minutes later, she gave up, releasing the balloons toward the heavens.

Good Housekeeping

Living Smart: First-time home buyers' mistakes

By AMANDA BELL
ANGIE'S LIST

The experience of buying your first home often brings up a lot of emotions. With so many new considerations and complicated processes to navigate, it's easy to get tripped up in details and make costly mistakes.

Read on to learn how to avoid making common first-time buyer missteps.

Don't skip home loan qualification

Once you decide to buy a home, it's tempting to start touring properties right away. Cheryl Grant, Realtor at Keller Williams North in Grand Rapids, Michigan, advises you to resist.

Instead, make your first stop a lending office. Figure out how much you qualify to borrow before wasting your own time and that of a seller, she

says. You don't want to sign a contract only to discover the bank won't loan you the necessary funds.

Know what you can afford

Many first-time buyers fail to budget properly, often confusing what they can afford with what lenders tell them they qualify to borrow. If you haven't yet, make a list of your monthly expenses before settling on a house budget.

"You absolutely should not be looking at homes out of your price range," says Brian Pakulla, a Realtor at Pakulla Professionals Re/Max Advantage Realty in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Doing so could cause you to stretch your finances too thin or make you feel dissatisfied when you do budget and then start to look at homes in your price range, he says.

Don't focus too much on the flaws

It's fun to dream about the items on your wish list, but some first-time buyers have a hard time compromising to



TNS

When buying or selling a house, rely on the expertise of a realtor to help you through the process.

meet their budgets. Don't let outdated features steer you away from a house that otherwise meets your criteria. On the other hand, don't compromise on your must-haves.

"You can always change the cosmetics of a house, but you can't change the view, location

or floor plan easily," Pakulla says.

Don't fall blindly in love
You think you find "the one" and immediately develop an emotional connection to it, never mind the leaky roof and creaky floors. You jump to put an offer in, but your real estate

agent urges you to reconsider.

At that point, Grant says take heed. Falling head over heels for a home can blind you to its true value or flaws that should be deal-breakers.

Don't wait too long

Today's housing market is competitive. If you spend too much time debating whether to put in an offer, a quicker buyer may snatch up the house you've been eyeing.

"Some first-time buyers have a difficult time moving that quickly even if it's a good home in their price range," Grant says. "My job is to explain how fast you need to move in this market, but I don't make people do anything if they're not comfortable. I show them the pros and cons and help them make the

right decision."

Don't skip the home inspection

Once a seller accepts your offer you may be tempted to fast-forward the process and skip the home inspection, but it's important to know if the house is in solid shape.

Aside from helping to identify any major structural flaws, a home inspection can help you budget for future maintenance issues. Consider it a "new home" orientation, Pakulla says.

"Go through the inspection to understand how your future home operates mechanically," he says. "It'll have some blemishes, but you'll learn and make sure nothing will be a major pitfall."

Keep resale in mind

It might seem preposterous to think about selling a house you haven't yet purchased, but experts recommend planning ahead. Many buyers don't factor in features that could affect a home's resale value, like number of bedrooms or whether it has a garage or basement, or if the home will suit their future needs, which is a common mistake.

"So many first-time buyers say they aren't thinking of children now, so school districts aren't a consideration for them," Grant says.

Even if you're not planning to have children, she says a home's location within a coveted school district often leads to a higher resale value down the line.

Living Smart: 5 types of trees to avoid

By BRENT GLASGOW
ANGIE'S LIST

Planting trees can spruce up your home landscape, but choosing the wrong tree can cause some major headaches. Here are five species you might want to avoid when planting a tree:

1. Black walnut tree

Black walnuts are often grown for their shade and edible nuts, but their buds, roots and nut hulls release significant levels of juglone, a chemical that robs sensitive plants of needed energy.

Garden vegetables planted in close proximity to black walnut trees are highly prone to wilting and eventual death. Vulnerable vegetables include tomatoes, peppers, asparagus, cabbage, eggplant, potatoes and rhubarb.

Trees affected by black walnuts include apple, pear, crabapple, and pine. Lilies, petunias and some chrysanthemums are also vulnerable, as are blackberry and raspberry bushes. Planting a tree is an easy job, but it takes more skill than you might think. The following tree-planting tips can help ensure you plant a tree that thrives.

2. Bradford pear tree

The Bradford pear tree is sen-



TNS

Bradford pear trees offer visual appeal, but are highly prone to splitting.

sitive to leaf scorch and fire blight, but branch splitting remains the biggest problem. Bradford pears are top heavy and have a v-shaped crotch, which makes them prone to splitting. It's not uncommon for the Bradford pear tree to split in half, especially during severe weather.

3. Ash tree

The ash tree is a target of the emerald ash borer (EAB), a beetle once native to East Asia. Initially found in Michigan in 2002, EABs likely arrived via packing materials made of ash wood.

EABs threaten the more than 8 billion ash trees in the United States, where they've often been planted in residential settings due to their resistance to severe weather,

diseases and pests. While nibbling by mature EABs can hurt foliage, the worst damage comes from their larvae, which feed on inner bark, thus disrupting water and nutrient transport.

Split bark, heavy woodpecker activity, leaf loss and water sprouts at the trunk are all signs of EAB infestation.

4. Ginkgo tree

Found on five continents, slow-growing ginkgo (biloba) trees can reach 115 feet and are popular residential trees because of their durability.

The problem comes in late fall, when female trees produce a putrid-smelling "fruit," which sticks to shoes and can get tracked indoors. Because there's no way to distinguish male and female varieties at

the seedling stage, the ginkgo tree is plagued by the rotten byproduct.

If you really want a stink-free ginkgo tree, seek out Autumn Gold and Lakeview varieties, which are male-only.

5. Sweetgum tree

While it can be beautiful, especially in the fall, the sweetgum's spiny brown balls, which come down by the thousand, are a major drawback.

There are many ways the "gumballs" might cause injury. You can slip and land on them as they roll. Shot out of a lawnmower, they become a hazardous projectile. They also don't rake easily, so you have to pick them up by hand, an unenviable task.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Chocolate-Hazelnut Macaroons

These cookies are delicious on their own, but a good thing gets even better when you sandwich two together with a gooey layer of kosher-for-Passover chocolate spread. Try Hashachar Special Cocoa Spread, available at ShopRite (or use Nutella post-Passover)!

1 cup hazelnuts, toasted
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
1 ounce unsweetened chocolate
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 large egg whites
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1. Heat oven to 350 F. Line large cookie sheet with kitchen parchment or foil.

2. In food processor with knife blade attached, blend toasted hazelnuts with sugar, cocoa, chocolate and salt until finely ground. Add egg whites and vanilla, and process

until blended.

3. Remove blade from processor. Drop batter by rounded teaspoons, 2 inches apart, on cookie sheet. If necessary, with moistened fingertip, push batter from teaspoon. Bake cookies 10 minutes or until tops feel firm when lightly pressed. Cool cookies completely on cookie sheet on wire rack. (If you want to reuse cookie sheet right away, let cookies cool slightly, about 5 minutes, then slide parchment or foil, with cookies attached, onto wire rack and let cookies cool completely.)

4. When cool, carefully peel cookies off parchment or foil. Store cookies in tightly covered container up to 2 weeks.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

Life & Style

Al-Jazeera America network shuts down Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Al-Jazeera America, which couldn't attract an audience to another cable news network in the United States, signs off Tuesday night following a three-hour live farewell designed to highlight its work since a 2013 launch.

The farewell begins at 6 p.m. EDT and will be repeated immediately before Al-Jazeera America goes dark. Local cable and satellite operators will decide what replaces the channel in their markets.

The Qatar-based Al-Jazeera network announced in January that it was shutting down the U.S.-based offshoot, calling it an economic decision. Backed by a deep-pocketed parent company, Al-Jazeera America began with lofty goals of offering serious-minded news and won some awards for its work. But when few people watched and oil prices plummeted, there was a limit to how much the company would spend.

Al-Jazeera America aired a four-part documentary pro-

duced with the BBC, "The Limits of Hope: Inside Obama's White House," that wrapped up on Sunday.

"We have time and time again given voices to those across America whose stories would not have been told in such depth without the attention of our reporters," said Kate O'Brian, Al-Jazeera America president. "We are incredibly grateful to our audience in the U.S., and we are deeply proud of the coverage."

Its most attention-getting

work included a December documentary linking professional athletes to performance-enhancing drugs. One player mentioned, quarterback Peyton Manning, called the report "complete garbage."

Between CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC, many viewers and cable operators believed the marketplace had

enough news options. Al-Jazeera bought the Current TV network founded by Al Gore and closed it in order to get space on cable systems.

The Al-Jazeera name had also proven an impediment for some viewers at a time the U.S. was entangled in conflicts in the Middle East. Last year, AJAM ousted its top ex-

ecutive amid charges of anti-Semitism and a culture of fear among employees.

It was not immediately clear how many journalists are losing their jobs as a result of the shutdown. AJAM had brought in some TV journalists familiar to U.S. audiences, such as Antonio Mora and Ali Velshi.



This Aug. 20, 2013 file photo shows Al-Jazeera America editorial newsroom staff preparing for their first broadcast in New York. AP

Lawsuit: High school gave 'Dora' actress a pass over vaping

NEW YORK (AP)—The teenage actress who voices Nickelodeon's spunky "Dora the Explorer" character was given special treatment after she was caught vaping in a private high school bathroom, according to a lawsuit filed Monday by another student's parents.

The parents of a 14-year-old former student at Manhattan's Avenues: The World School, identified as M.S. in a state Supreme Court civil case, say their child was forced out of the private school while 15-year-old actress Fatima Ptacek was only suspended for three days after they were caught using a vapor pen to inhale caramel-flavored water last December.

The lawsuit refers to Ptacek by her initials but identifies her as being the voice of Dora and an actress in an Oscar-winning movie.

"The fact that F.P. is a known actress for being the voice of Dora Explorer may have played a role in why she was ultimately not expelled even after the school threatened as much, and M.S. was expelled instead as a scapegoat," says the lawsuit by the parents, Nadia Leonelli and Fredrik Sundwall.

Ptacek's publicist did not return a request for comment on



This Aug. 21, 2015 file photo shows Fatima Ptacek as she arrives at the 30th annual Imagen Awards at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, in Los Angeles. AP

Monday. Neither did a spokesman for Nickelodeon.

School spokesman Bruce Bobbin said disciplinary

matters are "private and confidential," and he declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Paramount teases 'Baywatch,' confirms 'Fences' at CinemaCon

LAS VEGAS (AP)—From the bodacious bodies of "Baywatch" to the literary credentials of August Wilson's "Fences," Paramount Pictures has a diverse slate of films on its schedule.

The studio teased some upcoming properties Monday at CinemaCon, kicking off the annual gathering of theater owners and exhibitors, with stars, footage, and some announcements.

Paramount confirmed that Denzel Washington and Viola Davis will reprise their Tony-

winning roles in a big screen adaptation of "Fences," which Washington will direct. Audiences also saw some comedic, self-referential footage from the "Baywatch" movie starring Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron, scheduled for release next year. Johnson, Efron, and co-star Alexandra Daddario teased the film in a video message beamed in the signature red bathing suits.

Stars present at the conference included Megan Fox and Will Arnett who took

the stage to hype "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows," which comes out on June 3, while Jack Huston was there to tout the Aug. 19, 3D release of the "Ben-Hur" remake.

Jeremy Renner and Amy Adams also showed footage from their upcoming sci-fi drama "Story of Your Life" from "Sicario" director Denis Villeneuve. The film follows a linguist (Adams) who is called upon to interpret the language of an alien species that have landed on earth.

In Celebration of His New Life

†JESUS HOCOG

BORN: July 26, 1947 – DIED: April 8, 2016

IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE JOINS HIS:
Father: †Joaquin Borja
Mother: †Rosa Ogo Hocog

Brothers/Sister and Spouses:
 †Misael Ogo & †Angelica M. Ogo
 †Maria H. Borja
 †Candido H. & †Remedil T. Borja

Parents-In-Law: †Marcial K. & †Rufina Clemen Aguelo
Sister-In-Law: †Cleofe Aguelo

HIS MEMORIES WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:
Wife : Genoveva "Cora" A. Hocog
Son : Loremel A. Hocog
Step-Mother : Timotea B. Borja

Brother/Sister-In-Law:
 Ignacio H. & Rose Borja and children/ Joaquin B. Borja, Jr.

Sister: Andresina Borja and children

Brothers-In-Laws/Sisters-In-Laws: Napoleon & Christina Aguelo and children/ Nestor & Maritess Aguelo and children/ Aguelberto & Bernardita Aguelo and children/ Remedios & Matias Ordeniza and Children/ Teresita and Timoteo Abrasaldo


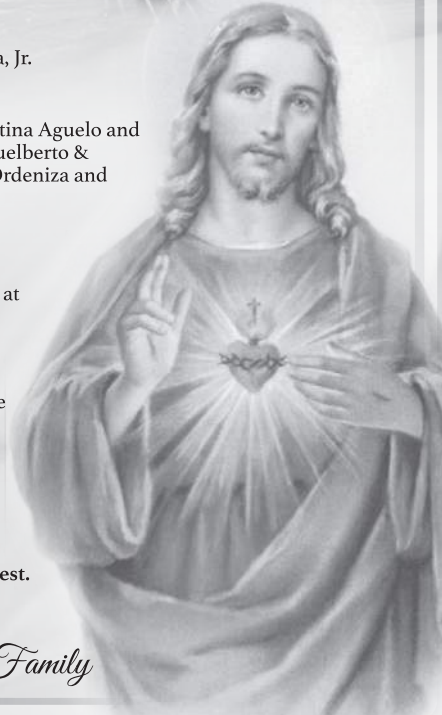
HE WILL BE MISSED BY NUMEROUS NEPHEWS, NIECES, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

Daily Mass of intentions are being offered at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Soledad Church. On April 10, 2016 (Sunday), Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m. and on April 11 to the 15, 2016, Mass will be at 6:00 p.m.

On April 16, 2016, his remains will be escorted from the Nuestra Senora De La Paz Memorial Chapel to Santa Soledad Church at 7:30 a.m. followed by Responso and Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment Services will follow at the Resurrection Circle, Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman, where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Cora and Loremel A. Hocog and Family

Judge clears 'Stairway to Heaven' copyright case for trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A trial is needed to determine if Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" copies its opening notes from a song performed by the rock band Spirit, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner ruled Friday that lawyers for the trustee of late Spirit guitarist Randy Wolfe had shown enough evidence to support a case that "Stairway to Heaven" copies music from the Spirit song "Taurus."

"Taurus" was written by Wolfe in either 1966 or 1967, years before Led Zeppelin released "Stairway to Heaven" in 1971. Klausner wrote that while the songs have some differences, lawyers for Wolfe's trustee may be able to prove they are substantially similar.

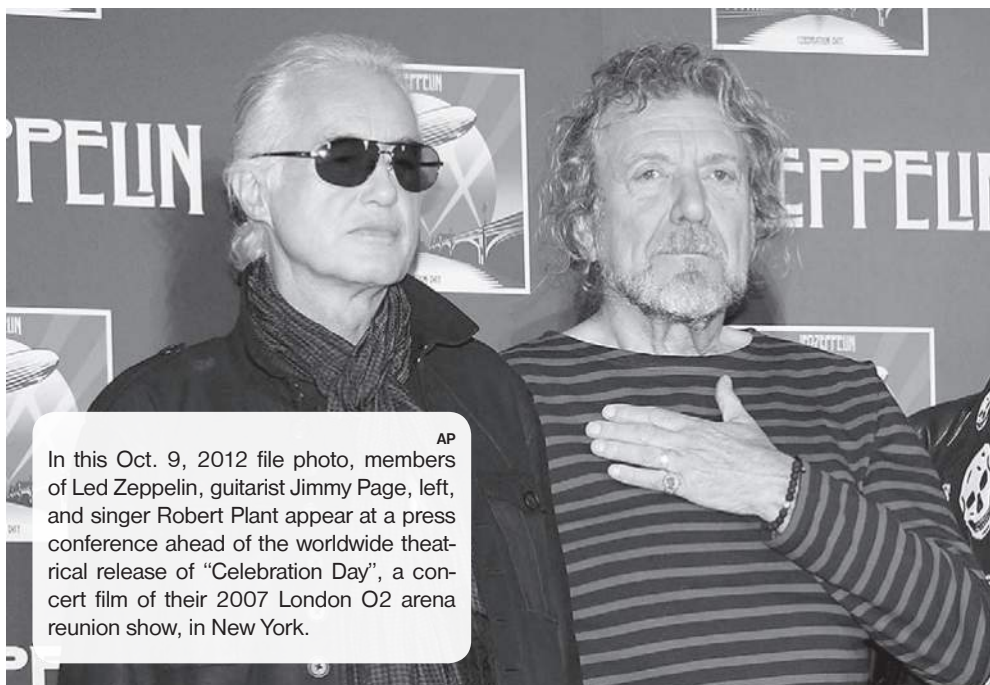
Led Zeppelin and Spirit performed at some concerts and festivals around the same time, but not on the same

stage. Klausner wrote that the evidence presented so far represented a circumstantial case that Led Zeppelin may have heard "Taurus" performed before "Stairway to Heaven" was created.

After-hours phone and email messages sent to Helene M. Freeman, Led Zeppelin's attorney, were not immediately returned. Experts hired by the band contend both "Stairway to Heaven" and "Taurus" use notes that have been used in music for centuries.

Francis Alexander Malofiy, attorney for Wolfe's trustee Michael Skidmore, praised the ruling. He said while many copyright cases are an uphill battle, Klausner's ruling brings his client one step closer to getting Wolfe credit for helping create one of the most recognizable song introductions in rock history.

Skidmore was able to over-



AP
In this Oct. 9, 2012 file photo, members of Led Zeppelin, guitarist Jimmy Page, left, and singer Robert Plant appear at a press conference ahead of the worldwide theatrical release of "Celebration Day", a concert film of their 2007 London O2 arena reunion show, in New York.

come statute-of-limitations hurdles to sue over "Stairway to Heaven" because the song was remastered and re-released in 2014.

A jury trial is scheduled for May 10 in Los Angeles. Klausner's ruling removed Zeppelin band member John Paul Jones from the case. Bandmates

Robert Plant and Jimmy Page remain defendants in the case.

A trial would represent the third time in recent months that a Los Angeles federal

jury has heard a copyright-infringement case involving a hit song. In March 2015, a jury found that Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams had copied a Marvin Gaye song to create their 2013 hit, "Blurred Lines" and awarded Gaye's children \$7.4 million. A judge trimmed the award, and the verdict is under appeal.

Later in the year, another jury was empaneled to determine whether the Jay-Z hit "Big Pimpin'" copied the work of an Egyptian composer, but a judge ruled in the rapper's favor before deliberations began.

Manuscripts among rare Ernest Hemingway items shown at JFK library

BOSTON (AP)—Ernest Hemingway and John F. Kennedy never met, but the author's most extensive personal collection is housed at JFK's presidential library and is now on public display.

The exhibition opening this week in Boston includes original manuscripts of some of his most famous literary works; letters to other major literary figures of his time; photographs and other personal mementos.

Billed as the most extensive museum exhibition devoted to the Nobel Prize winner's life and work, "Ernest Hemingway: Between Two Wars," enjoyed a three-month run at New York's Morgan Library & Museum last year.

After Hemingway's death in 1961, Kennedy helped his widow gain access to the author's former home in Cuba to retrieve his papers and other belongings. Mary Hemingway later decided to offer the collection to the Kennedy library.

No charges against TV's 'Dog Whisperer' Cesar Millan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No charges will be brought against TV "Dog Whisperer" Cesar Millan following an investigation of animal cruelty complaints involving an episode in which a dog nipped a pig's ear, authorities said Monday.

The investigation showed the dog accidentally escaped Millan's control, and people present instantly captured the dog, attended to the pig and called in a veterinarian, who found there was no need for treatment, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney David Jacobs wrote in a case evaluation statement.

"There is no evidence that the pig was used as bait, and all parties who witnessed the incident felt it was an accident," the evaluation said. "Although in the video the pig is seen bleeding, the dog's act was merely a nip and did not tear or bite the skin off."

The complaint was started online and based on footage from Millan's television show "Cesar 911," in which a French bulldog-terrier mix named Simon was undergoing behavior modification because it had a history of attacking other animals, including its owner's pigs.

Simon chased and nipped the pig after



AP
In an Aug. 19, 2006 file photo, television personality and dog psychologist Cesar Millan arrives for the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Millan placed the animals together in a yard. A Change.org petition called on Nat Geo WILD to take the show off the air,

calling Millan's methods inhumane.

The county Department of Animal Care and Control independently investigated and concluded the pig "is fine and has no discernable injury to its ear," the evaluation said.

Millan said in a statement that he was pleased but not surprised by the decision.

"Our animal handling procedures are safe and humane. ... I am continuing my work rescuing and rehabilitating even the most difficult problem dogs, which has saved the lives of thousands of animals that otherwise would have been euthanized," Millan said.

The dog trainer has said he has used the same technique to help aggressive canines hundreds of times. The training involves getting the dog together with the animal it doesn't like so the two can learn to get along.

Millan's attorney, Brian Klein, said his client cooperated throughout the investigation.

"We were always confident that Animal Control would conclude that Cesar and his team did nothing wrong and that there would be no charges," he said.

'Gilmore Girls' producer sues for fees on Netflix episodes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A producer of the "Gilmore Girls" is suing over plans to revive the series for a short run on the streaming service Netflix.

Producer Gavin Polone filed a lawsuit against Warner Bros. Television Production Inc. on Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court alleging he is owed nearly \$200,000 for the upcoming four-episode run.

Polone was one of the producers on the original series, which aired on the WB and CW networks before ending its 153-episode run in 2007.

Netflix is reviving the series with several of the original actors, including Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel.

An after-hours message sent to Warner Bros. seeking comment was not immediately returned Monday.

Breakdown in communication has serious, lasting consequences

DEAR ABBY: I am a junior in high school. Last year, a guy I have known for two years began showing a sexual interest in me. I rejected his advances. Last week, he began expressing his interest again, letting me know he wanted to have sex. He invited me to study—only study -- but said we "might" make out.

I was a virgin and had never even kissed anyone before. I had just gotten out of a relationship that didn't end very well, so I liked the attention. I decided I was fine with just kissing, but as soon as I got in his truck, he started to feel me up. He took me to a semi-isolated area and we ended up having sex. It wasn't fun or pleasurable. I told him he was hurting me, but he didn't stop until the third time I said it. He was very upset with me. He only cared about me pleasing him.

I told two of my close friends about what happened. One said he had essentially raped me. The other said it doesn't count as rape because even though I said it hurt, I didn't say it forcefully enough. Abby, what do you think?

UNCERTAIN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR UNCERTAIN: It appears you and that boy had a severe breakdown in communication, which led to your being sexually assaulted. He had made no secret that he

wanted sex with you, and may have interpreted your willingness to kiss him after he took you somewhere other than what was agreed upon as a signal that you were willing, even though you didn't say so.

Date rape happens when a fellow ends up coercing or forcing a girl to have sex without her consent. Unless a girl explicitly expresses her willingness to proceed, it is the responsibility of the boy NOT to proceed.

To me what happened illustrates how important it is for parents to talk to their sons and daughters about responsible behavior because failure to do that can have lifelong consequences for both. If you haven't already done so, you should tell your parents what happened. However, if you don't feel safe doing that, tell a counselor at school.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Can you give me a complete list of etiquette rules for parents with divorced children? My daughter and her ex-husband are constantly battling over issues regarding their two children. Her ex is engaged, and his soon-to-be wife gives her opinion on everything to do with parenting the kids. This is causing a continuous battle, and it isn't

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



good for the children.

GRANDMA IN MINNESOTA

DEAR GRANDMA: I will offer just one "rule." Divorced parents should remember that above all, what's most important is what's best for the children and maintain consistency wherever possible between the households.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
Salary: \$ 6.05 per hour

Other Qualifications:

- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently

Please mail your resume to
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or contact our Office at
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or contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

EMPLOYMENT

1 Pastor: \$1,200-\$1,500/mo. 3 years experience and Korean language speaking fluency required. Email resume to goodnews@hanmisaipan.com.

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Food Catering
(2) Cook

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DAY & NIGHT

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Candidates must also be willing to work flexible hours under minimal supervision.

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Triple J Corporate Office, Ground Floor
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from Monday through Friday,
9:00 am to 12:00 noon.
NO PHONE CALL PLEASE

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.



Legislative Bureau

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-16-001 AMEND

PL-UNGRADED: \$816.12 B/W
\$21,219.07 B/W

Position: Assistant Sergeant at Arms
Opening Date: April 8, 2016
Closing Date: April 18, 2016

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Responsible for the safety & security of members of the Legislature;
- Attends all session, public hearings and any other legislative meeting as designated by the Presiding Officer;
- Records and maintains the Chamber's legislative meetings as scheduled and maintains order and security during sessions and meetings;
- Delivers official documents, serves subpoenas, and performs other duties as instructed by the Presiding Officer, official rules, or other legislative authority;
- Prepares the chamber prior to scheduled legislative meetings and maintains its security during the interim;
- Inspects and operates the chamber's sound/video system and responsible for the maintenance of the chamber;
- Records and maintains visitor's log sheet on a daily basis; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Must have completed a Law Enforcement Academy and undergo and complete yearly required certifications pursuant to CNMI law; and
- Must undergo a complete Psychological Evaluation;
- Have knowledge of rules, general procedures, customs and courtesies of the CNMI Legislature and general principles of law enforcement; procedures and techniques of maintaining order, security and protocol of a legislative body; and
- Maintains good working conduct and is willing to work regularly after normal working hours.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. All applicants may be subject to further interviews and examinations(i.e. writing assignment) to determine qualification.

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed, postmarked no later than the closing date to the Office of the Director, Legislative Bureau, P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the follow positions:

Advertising Sales Agent

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, April 29, 2016.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and persons with disability are encouraged to apply.

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Interested in a job opportunity with growth and longevity? Then AK Toyota WANTS YOU! Here's your chance to put to use your polished skills and make some real money selling vehicles on Saipan. Take pride in working for the #1 automotive dealership in customer satisfaction. We want a committed Sales Associate to convey our high standards.

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- Degree preferred, but equivalent experience with high school diploma acceptable.
- Must be computer literate, experience in auto dealership software preferred
- Must be detail oriented, have excellent paperwork skills and well organized
- Valid Saipan driver's license

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If you meet these qualifications submit your resume to hr@akguam.net or apply in person at Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Inc. Finance & Admin. Office
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Bachelor's Degree in health care, or nursing and 5 or more years in a health insurance environment preferred including sales and marketing experience.

Qualified and capable individuals are encouraged to submit their resumes via e-mail to jcrisostomo@netcarelifeandhealth.com or apply in person at Moylan's Insurance Saipan Branch office located on Beach Road in Garapan.

Resumes or applications will be accepted no later than April 22, 2016. NetCare is an EEO Employer and a Drug and Smoke Free Workplace. Benefits Include: Sick leave, paid vacation, Holiday Pay, employee discounts, medical, dental and group life insurance benefits.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-019

Opening Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016
Closing Date: Friday, April 29, 2016

Internal Auditor (Re-Announcement)

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the CUC Board of Directors. May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Coordinates and conducts comprehensive internal financial, operational and/or information systems audits to determine compliance with, and effectiveness of established controls and regulations; implements audit programs to address and improve operational efficiency and to minimize risk exposure. Researches business control needs and identifies audit scope and objectives; prepares audit work plans; identifies key stakeholders; and determines scheduling and audit processes. Performs and/or coordinates assessments and internal audit activities related to controls, compliance, and operational efficiency; analyzes risk; collects, researches and analyzes financial and operational data, records and information; and identifies issues and deficiencies. Communicates and documents audit findings, risk exposures, and internal control issues; prepares and presents reports and recommendations for corrective actions, internal control improvements, and methods to improve operational efficiency. Reviews and evaluates internal audit processes and procedures; provides recommendations for efficiency and quality improvements and/or automated processes. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$48,821.00 to \$65,908.00 per annum.
(Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1).
CONTRACT : Two (2) Year Contract.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: **Education:** Bachelor's Degree in business, finance or related field and 5-7 years of related experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation. **Licensing/Certification Requirements:** Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class; Certified Internal Auditor or Certified Information Systems Auditor. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; US Generally Accepted Auditing Standards; Financial, management and operational analysis principles; Internal audit methods, controls and standards relevant to area of assignment; Mathematical principles; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Conducting comprehensive internal audits; Assessing internal controls and risk; Reviewing operational effectiveness and compliance; Identifying audit scope and objectives; Planning and implementing schedules and audit process flow; Researching and analyzing data and information; Documenting and presenting audit findings and recommendations; Providing customer service and advising management on compliance practices; Reviewing processes and providing recommendations to improve efficiencies and quality; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and one (1) year supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera and MAS 90; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER

Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. a Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CARPENTER

Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE

Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR

Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN

Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF

Minimum of six (6) years of progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have at least two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR

Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN

Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) MUSICIAN (3-pc band)

Minimum of two (2) years experience as a musician. Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian. Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis. At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

(1) PASTRY COOK

Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER

Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE

Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) PURCHASING CLERK

Minimum of one (1) year of administrative and clerical related work experience, preferably in Purchasing or Procurement in a hotel setting. Preferred experience in Custom clearance process. Job requires a valid CNMI Driver's License. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel). Must be able to lift minimum of 50 pounds. Experience using MAS90 is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) RESERVATIONS CLERK – KOREAN MARKET

Minimum of six (6) months experience working for a hotel. Must be able to use hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Excel. Must be able to understand, speak, read, write English and Korean. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SOUS CHEF

Minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience working in a similar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food production, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LeBron, Cavs clinch top seed in East with win over Hawks



CLEVELAND
(AP) — LeBron James did all he could to downplay getting the No. 1 seed.

And then did everything he could to get it.

James scored 34 points with six rebounds and six assists in just three quarters, Kyrie Irving scored 35 and the Cleveland Cavaliers clinched the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs—and home-court advantage until the Finals—with a 109-94 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night.

James, who tried to dismiss the importance of finishing atop the East before the game, scored 19 in the third quarter and sat for just four of the first 36 minutes as he helped the Cavs finish atop the conference for the third time in team history.

A few weeks back, James announced he had shifted into postseason mode. He's been unstoppable since.

"It's just a feeling," James said of a change in his focus and energy. "It's not a game. It's not a time of the month. It's just a feeling and I know it, and I know when the switch needs to be turned for me and I was able to do that for my team."

James finished 13 of 16 from the field, made all five free throws and delivered the kind of performance that has made him the world's best all-around player.

"I hope he can keep it up," Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said. "If he plays like this, man, we're going to be tough to beat. He's just taken it to a whole other level the last three or four weeks, playing at a very high level, shooting the ball very well, shooting it with confidence and also getting it to the basket."

"I like the LeBron I see right now."

When James finally sat down late in the third, Irving made sure he didn't have to come back in by scoring nine points in the first four minutes. Kevin Love added 14 rebounds for Cleveland, which will wrap up the regular season on Wednesday against Detroit - a possible first-round opponent.

Rockets 129, Timberwolves 105

In Minneapolis, James Harden scored 34 points and Dwight Howard had 19 points and eight rebounds to keep Houston's playoff hopes alive with a victory over Minnesota.

Harden made 12 of 21 shots in three quarters, Trevor Ariza scored 21 points and the Rockets made 15 of 30 3-pointers. Houston (40-41) entered the game in ninth place in the Western Conference and one game behind Utah for the final spot.

Shabazz Muhammad



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Atlanta Hawks' Thabo Sefolosha (25), from Switzerland, in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, April 11, 2016, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 109-94.

lison and Rajon Rondo. Curry topped his previous career best of five assists.

Kosta Koufos added 19 points for Sacramento. Mirza Teletovic led Phoenix with 26 points. Devin Booker added 22, 18 in the second half when the Suns sliced Sacramento's 17-point lead to two.

Bulls 121, Pelicans 116

In New Orleans, Jimmy Butler scored 12 of his 23 points in the last six minutes and short-handed Chicago beat injury-riddled New Orleans.

Nikola Mirotic added 20 points and Cristiano Felicio matched his career high with 16 for the Bulls. Butler was the only regular in the starting lineup. Derrick Rose and Pau Gasol sat after Chicago was eliminated from the playoffs when Indiana won Sunday.

James Ennis had a career-high 29 points for the Pelicans, who have been without all five of their leading scorers for two weeks. Toney Douglas contributed 21 points, and Tim Frazier had 20 points and 11 assists.

Wizards 120, Nets 111

In New York, Ramon Sessions had 21 points and 12 assists, and Washington recovered after blowing all of its 20-0 lead to beat Brooklyn.

Marcus Thornton scored 19 points as he and Sessions did just fine in replacing injured starting guards John Wall and Bradley Beal. J.J. Hickson had 15 points as Washington put seven players in double figures.

The Wizards made their first nine shots before Brooklyn made one and looked headed for a blowout victory. Instead, they needed another big run in the fourth quarter to finally put it away.

Magic 107, Bucks 98

In Orlando, Ersan Ilyasova scored 22 points and Mario Hezonja added 19 to help Orlando Magic defeat Milwaukee in its home finale.

The victory allowed the Magic to close out the regular season strong at home where they won five of their final six games, including two straight to finish the year 23-18 at the Amway Center. Orlando concludes its season at Charlotte on Wednesday.

The Magic, playing without three starters, were dominant at times with Ilyasova leading the way in place of injured Aaron Gordon.

scored 23 points and Zach LaVine scored 21 for the Timberwolves, who were looking for their first four-game winning streak since 2012. Karl-Anthony Towns was held to 12 points and five rebounds and Minnesota was just 5 for 21 from 3-point range.

Thunder 112, Lakers 79

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 34 points and Russell Westbrook had a triple-double by halftime to help Oklahoma beat Los Angeles in the final road game of Kobe Bryant's 20-year career.

Kobe looked vintage in the first quarter with 13 points, but he went scoreless the rest of the way.

Plenty of Lakers fans lined up at Chesapeake Energy Arena more than two hours before the start, and the crowd chanted Bryant's name as they waited during pregame warmups. The Thunder honored him with a video before the tip.

Westbrook stole the show in the second quarter, clinching his league-leading 18th triple-double of the season, and the 37th of his career. He finished with 13 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds.

Mavericks 101, Jazz 92

In Salt Lake City, Dirk Nowitzki scored 22 and Dallas clinched the No. 7 spot in the Western Conference playoffs with a win over Utah, leaving one remaining postseason slot.

Utah (40-41) lost control of its own destiny and needs to beat the Lakers on Wednesday and for the Rockets (40-41) to lose to the Kings. Houston holds the tiebreaker against the Jazz if they finish with the same record.

Dallas rode its two biggest stars to victory as Nowitzki hit four 3-pointers and added 11 rebounds. Deron Williams scored 23 of his own against his former team.

Hornets 114, Celtics 100

In Boston, Jeremy Lin scored 19 of his 25 points in Charlotte's big second quarter, carrying the Hornets to a win over Boston.

Kemba Walker scored 18 points, and Al Jefferson and

Marvin Williams each had 16 for the Hornets, who are in a tight race with Boston and Miami in the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley led Boston with 17 points apiece. It was just the Celtics' third loss in their past 21 home games.

Kings 105, Suns 101

In Phoenix, Seth Curry had 20 points and tripled his previous career best with 15 assists and depleted Sacramento beat Phoenix.

Curry, Stephen's brother, played 39 minutes—the most of his NBA career—while the Kings left three of their top players home for "rest"—DeMarcus Cousins, Darren Col-

Curry is setting standard on and off the court

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—For years, Stephen Curry watched his dad, Dell, do his part in the community. Curry was often among those children in Charlotte treated to special appearances from star athletes and still cherishes those sweet memories.

"That's how I grew up," Curry said. "I was blessed to see my dad and how he interacted with kids my age at the time. He was going to youth camps and different school events. I know how happy me and my friends were at that age to see somebody we looked up to come and spend some time. I don't want to take those opportunities for granted, no matter what the schedule is, or what's going on outside of that event. That's a time

for them."

Even in the middle of Golden State's special season and quest for the NBA wins record, which Curry and the Warriors (72-9) will try to accomplish in the regular-season finale Wednesday night against Memphis by topping the 72-win Chicago Bulls of 1995-96.

So, on a rainy Tuesday last month when he had the day off, Curry spent several hours at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. He spoke to the kids about the importance of drinking water, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, making the right choices and going to college.

This is normal for Curry, even a day after becoming the first player in NBA history to make 300 3-pointers

in a season and less than 24 hours after defending champion Golden State set yet another record in a season full of them - this time for the best regular-season home winning streak ever at 45 games. In the middle of playing five games in seven days, no less.

Curry won the NBA "Seasonlong Community Assist Award" for 2013-14 and is a regular participant for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Not to mention that for every 3-pointer he makes Curry donates three bed nets to fight Malaria through Nothing But Nets. He has an NBA-record 392 3s so far this season.

Hat on backward and wearing a big smile that afternoon in inner-city Oakland, the reigning NBA MVP - likely headed for another such

honor—pumped his right fist when someone gave a good answer to a trivia question, he waved and high-fived while making his entrance, and even chanted along when appropriate.

Sometimes, the Warriors worry just a bit about their do-everything point guard overextending himself.

"It doesn't surprise me," coach Steve Kerr said. "He genuinely cares. Sometimes he does too much stuff, we try to pull him back, pull the reins back because everyone wants a piece of him and he has a hard time saying no."

Among giggling, giddy children, Curry is clearly in his other element, off the basketball floor where he is the most dynamic player now and in recent memory.

Orioles remain unbeaten after late Davis blast



BOSTON (AP)—Chris Davis hit a tie-breaking, three-run homer off new closer Craig Kimbrel in the ninth inning and drove in five runs, carrying Baltimore over Boston in David Ortiz's final home opener.

Kimbrel (0-1), the All-Star reliever acquired in an off-season trade from San Diego, entered with the score 6-6. He walked Caleb Joseph with one out and Manny Machado with two outs, then gave up Davis' home run to center on a 97 mph pitch.

Mookie Betts homered off Zach Britton leading off the bottom half, and Boston had two on and no outs when Ortiz grounded into a double play. Britton then struck out Hanley Ramirez for his third save.

Brad Brach (2-0) pitched a perfect eighth. The Orioles improved to 6-0 and remain the lone unbeaten team in the major leagues. They had been shut out in their previous three trips to Fenway, outscored 17-0.

Cubs 5, Reds 3

In Chicago, Reds left-hander Brandon Finnegan pitched 6 2/3 hitless innings before allowing a single to David Ross, but Addison Russell hit a three-run home run while Chicago roughed up Cincinnati's bullpen in a 5-3 victory Monday night in the Cubs' home opener.

Ross' single started a two-run rally, with Jason Heyward cutting the Cubs' deficit to 3-2 with a bases-loaded single off Tony Cingrani.

In the eighth, Cingrani (0-1) walked Ben Zobrist with one out and hit Jorge Soler. Russell then drove Jumbo Diaz's first pitch out to left-center, whipping the packed crowd into a frenzy and sending the Cubs to their sixth victory in seven games, matching their best start since 1998.

Jon Lester pitched six innings, allowing three runs and five hits. Adam Warren (1-0) worked a scoreless eighth for his first win as a Cub, and Hector Rondon struck out the side in the ninth for his second save in as many chances.

Astros 8, Royals 2

In Houston, Collin McHugh bounced back from the shortest start of his career by pitching seven scoreless innings and Colby Rasmus hit a two-run homer as Houston won its home opener over Kansas City.

Carlos Correa had three hits and two RBI for Houston, Jose Altuve had three hits and rookie Tyler White added a pair of hits for his fourth multi-hit game this year.

McHugh (1-1) allowed eight hits and struck out four to bounce back from his last start, in which he allowed six runs and walked two in 1/3 inning of a 16-6 loss to the Yankees.

Marlins 10, Mets 3

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton homered to cap a seven-run second inning against Steven Matz, and Miami handed the touted rookie his first regular-season loss.

Marcell Ozuna homered and doubled to break out of an early slump, and Adeiny Hechavarria had three RBI from the No. 8 spot in the lineup. By the sixth inning, every Marlins starting position player had a hit and scored a run.

Chris Johnson reached base four times in his first start for Miami, and J.T. Realmuto had three of the team's 15 hits. Martin Prado had two singles and two walks in a game that dragged on for 3 hours, 45 minutes, before a sparse crowd at Citi Field.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Mike Trout hit his first home run of the season, Nick Tropeano pitched five scoreless innings in his season debut and Los Angeles beat Oakland and ace Sonny Gray.

Trout struck out looking twice but homered on the first pitch he saw from Gray in the sixth, a towering two-run shot that ricocheted off the right side of the bleachers just below the luxury suites in left-center field.

Gray (1-1) allowed three runs over 6 1/3 innings, struck out six and walked three.

Tropeano (1-0) gave up six hits in five-plus innings.

White Sox 4, Twins 1

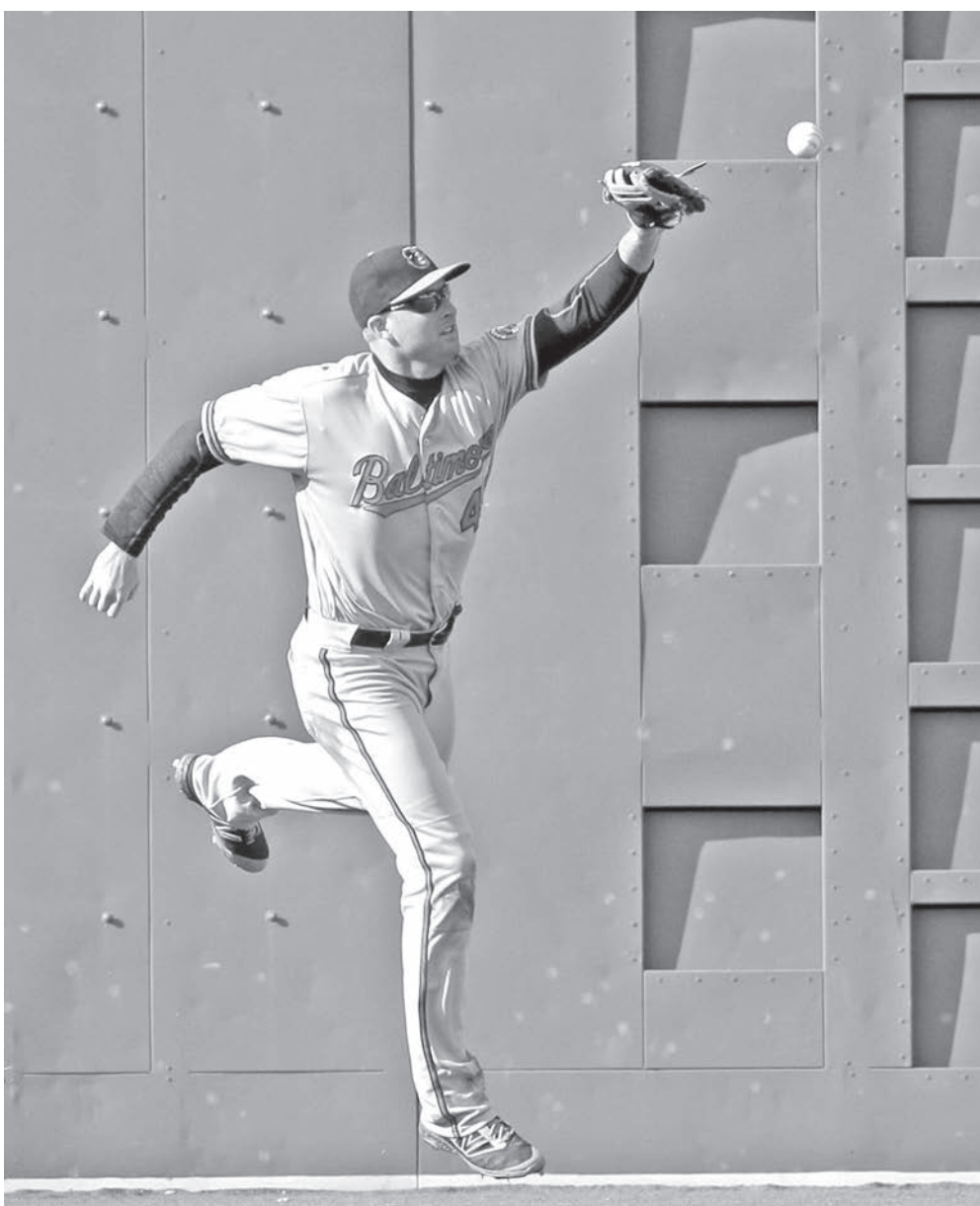
In Minneapolis, Austin Jackson hit a two-run, two-out single in the fourth inning, one pitch after just missing a grand slam, and Minnesota dropped to 0-7 with a loss in its home opener. It is the worst start for the franchise since the original Washington Senators lost their first 13 games in 1904, according to STATS.

Jose Quintana (1-0) completed six smooth innings with one run allowed for the White Sox, who have won five of their first seven.

Twins starter Kyle Gibson (0-2) was charged with one earned run over 5 2/3 innings.

Nationals 6, Braves 4

In Washington, falling to 0-6 for the first time in nearly 30 years, Atlanta lost to Washington, which used Wilson Ramos' four singles and two RBI to help cover up a shaky start by Max Scherzer.



BALTIMORE Orioles left fielder Mark Trumbo chases a double off the wall by Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz in the seventh inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park, Monday, April 11, 2016, in Boston.

lowing an infield single to open the sixth when he failed to cover on Leonys Martin's bouncer to first.

The Rangers erased a 1-0 deficit with runs in the second, third and fourth off Hisashi Iwakuma (0-1), who gave up three runs on eight hits in six innings.

Padres 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Alexi Amarista's safety squeeze in the seventh scored the go-ahead run in Philadelphia's home opener.

Wil Myers hit a solo homer for the Padres, who benefited from a strange double play and two video reviews going their way.

Kevin Quackenbush (1-0) struck out the only batter he faced, and Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his first save for the Padres.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 1

In St. Louis, Michael Wacha (1-0) allowed four hits in six scoreless innings, and St. Louis had 10 extra-base hits in its home opener.

Jeremy Hazelbaker was 4 for 4 with a triple, double and sacrifice fly, lifting his average to .526, and fellow rookie Almedys Diaz had two doubles.

Yadier Molina had three hits, two RBI and an uncontested steal off Taylor Jungmann (0-1).

Scherzer (1-0), pitching on a full week's rest, won despite allowing two-run doubles to A.J. Pierzynski and Nick Markakis in the first two innings. The righty wound up going six innings and didn't let Atlanta score again in front of a sparse crowd announced as 18,119.

Ramos drove in the go-ahead run off Bud Norris (0-2) in the fifth, breaking a 4-all tie.

Pirates 7, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Gregory Polanco had two of Pittsburgh's six doubles, and the Pirates chased Justin Verlander during the fifth inning. Verlander (0-1) allowed seven runs and 10 hits—five of them doubles—in 4 1/3 innings.

Jonathan Niese (1-0) gave up four runs—three earned—and five hits in six innings. Mark Melancon pitched a one-

hit ninth for his third save.

Rangers 7, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Colby Lewis allowed one run on four hits over six innings against Seattle's struggling offense and Rougned Odor drove in three runs to lead Texas.

Lewis (1-0) allowed a first-inning run on Nelson Cruz's two-out RBI double, then retired 13 straight before al-

Eli Manning working to bring new Giants faces together



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP)—Eli Manning spent some of the Giants' opening day of their offseason program greeting the free agents he had only spoken to over the phone in the previous weeks.

The quarterback said Monday that helping to acclimate new teammates to their new surroundings was important in creating a winning team chemistry. That's especially pertinent for general manager Jerry Reese's March 9 veteran haul of potential defensive game changers Olivier Vernon, defensive tackle Damon Harrison, cornerback Janoris Jenkins, and linebacker Keenan Robinson.

It mattered little to him whether they were defensive additions or offensive ones.

"I called a lot of guys

weeks ago, just to introduce myself and see if they needed anything," Manning said. "I tried to reach out to those guys today, just try to figure out how to help them, help the team get better."

"Just to get to know them on a personal level because I think, as a group, the closer the friendship and that bond is, the better off we'll be."

The newcomers also included a trio of veterans the team signed Monday for depth and competition purposes: Tampa Bay running back Bobby Rainey, Miami linebacker Kelvin Sheppard, and Tennessee offensive tackle Byron Stingily.

Manning said getting the offseason program off to a good start is just the first step in improving from a 6-10 season. He appraised the overall attitude of his teammates as enthu-

siastic and expectant, especially in light of a new coaching staff that includes new strength coach Aaron Wellman, and his new quarterbacks coach, Frank Cignetti, Jr.

The players will work mostly with Wellman over the first two weeks because coaches are not allowed to drill them during the program's first phase.

The Giants have the most direct familiarity with Rainey, who played under offensive coordinator Mike Sullivan in 2013 when Sullivan served in the same capacity with Tampa Bay. Rainey broke a franchise-record 80-yard touchdown run that year.

Entering his fifth season, the 5-foot-8, 212-pound Rainey has played in 46 games with 11 starts with Baltimore, Cleveland, and Tampa Bay. He has three 100-yard rush-

ing games in a career that includes 249 carries for 990 yards and six touchdowns, 51 catches for 377 yards and two touchdowns.

Rainey's biggest value comes on special teams, where he owns a 9.5-yard average on 36 punt returns and a 24.7-yard average on 32 kick-off returns.

Sheppard, 6-2, 249, has the most starting experience with 45 for Buffalo, Indianapolis, and Miami. He didn't miss a game his first two seasons after the Bills made him their third-round pick out of LSU in 2011. But it wasn't until last season with Miami that he managed career highs with 102 tackles and 13 tackles for losses in 13 starts.

He also started two playoff games for the Colts in 2013, getting 11 tackles and a fumble recovery.

Australia, Japan in Group B for Asian World Cup qualifying



Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Windsor John holds the country name card of Japan in the draw for 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia Asian qualifiers final round in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Asian Cup champion Australia and Japan have been grouped together in the last round of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Australia and Japan are in Group B along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and Thailand.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Asian Cup champion Australia and Japan have been grouped together in the last round of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

The Socceroos and Japan were drawn into Group B at a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur and will be joined by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Thailand.

Iran and South Korea were the top-seeded teams in Group A, which also includes China, Uzbekistan, 2022 World Cup host Qatar and Syria.

The teams were drawn into two groups of six, with the matches starting in September. The top two teams in each group qualify automatically,

with the third-place teams playing off for a shot at an inter-continental qualifier against the fourth-place team from CONCACAF.

The teams were seeded and drawn from six pots based on the April 7 FIFA rankings, meaning Iran and Australia—the top teams in the rankings—could not meet, and nor could South Korea and Japan.

Australia is expected to open against 2007 Asian champion Iraq at home on Sept. 1 before traveling to the UAE. In October, the Australians travel to Saudi Arabia before returning for a home match against Japan, which has qualified for

the last five World Cups.

Japan is the only team in the group with a winning record against Australia, with eight wins and eight draws in their 23 international meetings.

“If you want to make it to such a prestigious tournament, you’ve got to beat the best. I’m excited,” Australia forward Tim Cahill, who scored twice in a comeback win over Japan in his World Cup debut in 2006, told Fox Sports Australia. “This is what football is all about. We’ve done so well in the Asian Cup by winning it -- this is where it’s going to separate the men from the boys. We’re ready for

Pacific region, is one of the steps leading to the world games. The Open began on Feb. 25 and ended in the final week of March. The Top 30 people in the Open moved to the regional set from May 13 to 29.

Competitors in the Open are allowed to do the workout of the day (WOD) at their homes or other CrossFit gyms provided that they submit a video to the judges as proof. Tudela and Bonnie Cruz also competed in the Open with the latter failing to submit her final video to the organizers.

opportunity to compete in the Junior Fed Cup.

“I am so excited to challenge players from other countries. There are a lot of players older than me and they are very good players. I am a little nervous, but I would like to see how I would fare with their level of play. I will do my best, win or lose,” the 14-year-old Lee said.

Besides the Australian junior players, Lee and company will also face the rep-

Before trying CrossFit, Villanueva was a member of the CNMI national track and field team and trained under national coach Elias Rangamar. He credited Marianas High School physical education instructor Nick Gross for introducing him to weightlifting. He has been a CrossFit coach for three years at GetFit CNMI, joining the company of Tudela, Jose Quan, and Jay Sablan. CrossFit WOD is a combination of endurance training, gymnastics, and weightlifting merged into a single workout.

representatives of Thailand and Hong Kong. Lee’s squad, which is captained by Vanuatu’s Andrew Maitorok, was scheduled to duel Thailand yesterday, while today, Pacific Oceania will collide against Hong Kong. The Top 2 teams in Group B and three other pools will advance to the knockout stage with the Top 4 squads qualifying to the finals, which will be held in Hungary from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2.

it. We want to play the best.”

South Korea is growing in confidence after reaching the final of the 2015 Asian Cup, topping their second-round group with 24 unanswered goals.

“We played exceptionally well in 2015, so we’re full of confidence. I’m very optimistic that we’ll make it to Russia,” South Korea coach Uli Stielike

said ahead of the draw.

War-torn Syria reached the final round despite the ongoing upheaval, forcing the national team to play the entire second round away from home.

The Syrians finished behind Japan in the previous stage, to progress as one of the four best second-place teams.

Meanwhile, Jose Mourinho

declined Syria’s offer to coach the war-torn nation’s team on Saturday while reiterating his desire to return to management in England next season.

The Portuguese, who has been linked with Manchester United since being fired by Chelsea for a second time in December, insisted he has no contract with a club.

Alamo top seed in Thursday billiards playoffs

Top-ranked Jokers Alamo Car Rental will take on the No. 4 Wild Bills Wild Wild West in the playoff round of the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Alamo earned the top spot after compiling a 154-106 record, narrowly beating the Homeboyz (153-107).

The Homeboyz collide with fellow Jokers-backed squad Wildboyz in the other semis pairing. Both matches will be held tomorrow either at Jokers Bar & Grill or at Wild Bill’s, which are just stones throw away in Garapan.

The Wildboyz came in third after the regular season

ending up with a 146-114 slate, while sister squad Wild Wild West finished fourth at 133-127. The Rack ‘N’ Jonny’s Team SCS (90-170) are the other teams in the division.

The winners of the semis matches will play for the title on April 21, while the losers will battle for third place also next week.

Alamo closed out its season with a 9-4 trouncing of the Rack ‘N’ Roll, while the Homeboyz won against Wild Wild West in similar scores. Team SCS drubbed the Wildboyz, 8-5, in the other match.

In the Tuesday SBA Cup, the Hustlers got back at the Voyagers with a 9-4 decision, while the Destroyers scored a 9-2 rout of the Wildboyz.

The Hustlers lost the league crown to the Voyagers just a week ago but this time moved closer to the Cup finals with the victory. They were playing the Destroyers at press time with the winner earning a berth to the title round.

The StraightBlackBall and the Jonny’s Crazy 8 are the other teams battling for remaining finals berth. The finals will be played on April 19. (Jon Perez)



Jokers Alamo Car Rental players pose for a photo before their game in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

MJD

From Page 28

17 points in the first half, 32-49. Peredo’s basket put IT&E on top and the team had a chance to extend the lead when MJD muffed a shot and Angelo Fernando got the rebound. Fernando then passed the ball to Deleon Guerrero, who was sprinting to their frontcourt and was tempted to go for the layup instead of running down the clock. He faltered with Dar Barcinas chasing him and challenging the shot.

After the miss, Lizama plucked the rebound went coast to coast before stopping for the killer jumper, down to the final two seconds of the match. IT&E sued for time to map out a play, which should have Peredo taking the shot after the inbound play. However, Nate Mateo failed to hand the ball over to Peredo, as

the former fumbled and time expired, allowing MJD to escape with a one-point win.

Lizama was among the three players who scored in double figures in MJD’s close win. He finished with 14 points, 8 of them came in the second half and 6 in the fourth canto. Douglas Schmidt paced MJD with his 27 markers, while Matt Duenas chipped in 25. Peredo also had 25 points to lead IT&E.

With the victory, MJD improved to a 4-0 record for a share of the Pool A lead with T Galleria.

Meanwhile, Pacific Islands Club won the battle of undefeated teams in Pool B after dominating DFEMS in the first game, 84-67.

PIC got off to a good start, leading at 28-11 in the first quarter and never looked back to bag its third win in as many games. DFEMS had its two-game streak snapped.

The backcourt duo of Sean Rabasto and Jack Aranda towed PIC to the 17-point win after firing 23 and 15 points, respectively.

First Game

PIC 84 — Rabasto 23, Aranda 15, Barbo 13, Espinosa 12, Castro 10, Eroch 2, Bartolo 2.

DFEMS 67 — Lisua 15, Pua 14, Rabauliman 9, Iginoef 8, Benjamin 7, Cruz 3, George 3, Magofna 2, Borja 2, Kaipat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-11, 51-28, 73-46, 84-67.

Second Game

MJD 90 — Schmidt 27, Duenas 25, Lizama 14, Barcinas 8, Gapor 4, Deocares 2.

IT&E 89 — Peredo 25, Deleon Guerrero 15, Pagarao 15, Mateo 14, Fernando 13, Manalo 6, Mancao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-18, 49-32, 76-66, 90-89.

VILLANUEVA

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training partner, he also incorporates running and swimming to his regimen.

“I’ve spent some time with my friends at the pool and also worked in track for running,” said Villanueva, who also participated in the Open Workouts qualifiers for the 2016 Reebok CrossFit Games that will be held from July 19 to 24 in California.

The CrossFit Open Workouts, where the CNMI and Guam are entered in the Asia-

LEE

From Page 28

Despite the loss, Lee’s performance against Australia was lauded by Oceania Tennis Federation.

“Great results by Carol Lee on Day 1—to go to 3 sets with ITF Juniors world No. 46 from Australia,” OTF stated in its Facebook page.

Lee, in an earlier message to *Saipan Tribune*, said she is very fortunate to have the

IT&E Doubles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition 2016

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ and ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Nathan Guerrero, right, prepares to serve, while his partner Nicole Malasarte waits for the return during their finals match against Chris Hilario and Windy Fernandez in the IT&E Doubles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition 2016 early this month at the TSL Sports Complex.



Joel Ortega makes a return during his and Jordan Pangilinan's third place match against Daniel Macario and Oh Im Bog in the men's doubles AB.



Morgan Kim returns to Patrick Fernandez.



Maco Aguda, left, and Lani Bartolome wait for the return from their semis opponents Andreau Galvez and Malou Malasarte.

Erica Jung serves during her and Morgan Kim's mixed doubles C title match against Patrick Fernandez and Vilma Reyes.



Mixed doubles champions Janelle Savellano, left, and Almond Ortega get ready for their foes' next move.



Patrick Fieldad, left, and Oh Im Bog compete in the men's doubles B finals against Rodwealth Espana and Ezekiel Macario.



Chris Hilario, left, goes for a backhand return, while his teammate Windy Fernandez looks on.



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clinch top seed
in East with win
over Hawks

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee scares Aussie in Junior Fed Cup



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee forced her Australian foe to a three-set game in the 2016 Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying last Monday in India.

Lee, who played in the second singles match for Pacific Oceania, dueled Australia's Baijing Lin and stunned the world No. 46-ranked player in the opening set, 6-2. In the second set, Lee, whose highest ITF Juniors ranking is at No. 747, engaged Lin in a back-and-forth match before the latter pulled off a 7-5 victory to send the game in the deciding third set. The Australian went on to complete the come-from-behind win after outlasting Lee in the final set, 6-1.

Lin's triumph also secured the early win for Australia in its first match in the round-robin play in Group B of the

qualifier. Jessica Zaviacic handed the Land Down Under its first victory after sweeping Fiji's Vienna Kumar in the



opening singles match, 6-4, 6-0. Australia capped the 3-0 shutout win against Pacific Oceania after Zaviacic teamed up with Susan Staines Kaitlin in defeating Lee and Tahiti's Naia Guittion, 6-1, 6-2.

See LEE on Page 26

MJD Enterprises nips IT&E



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MJD Enterprises' Dan Barcinas, left, partially blocks the shot of IT&E's Errol Peredo during the third quarter of their game in the IGBL last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MJD Enterprises avoided a second-half meltdown after nosing out IT&E, 90-89, in the second game in the 2016 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jack Lizama saved the day for MJD, knocking in

a jumper in the closing seconds of the match. His game-winning shot came after he collared the rebound off a sorry miss from Shane Deleon Guerrero on the other end.

Guerrero could have iced it for IT&E, which grabbed the upper hand, 89-88, in the last 14 seconds of the game after falling behind by as much as

See MJD on Page 26

Villanueva, 2 others prepare for Guam CrossFit

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Salvi Villanueva, Joey Tudela, and Nicole Harkness are in the final stages of their preparation for the 5th Marianas Trench Throwdown set next week weekend at the Chamorri CrossFit Gym in Tamuning, Guam.

Villanueva won the silver medal in the similar competition last year after collecting 1,425 points, just 25 shy of champion Alex Johnson of Guam. Mike James, also from the CNMI's southern island neighbor, was third with his 1,385 points.

Tudela and Harkness came in at 12th and 15th, respectively, out of 44 men and 22 wom-



en. Tudela, who competed for the fifth time in last year's Trench Throwdown, garnered

892 points, while Harkness finished with 923.

Villanueva and Tudela have been training regularly at the latter's house to prepare for this year's tournament that will have the three CNMI bets

going up against Guam's top CrossFitters.

Villanueva said that aside from having Tudela as his

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Salvi Villanueva uses the rings in one of his training sessions to prepare for the 5th Marianas Trench Throwdown set on April 23 and 24 at the Chamorri CrossFit in Guam.